THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHINESE COMPANY PLANTED MALWARE IN 21 MN PHONES

Over 21 million Gionee phones were intentionally infected with Trojan horse malware, a Chinese court has found

INSTALLED THROUGH AN APP UPDATE

The court found that Shenzhen Zhipu Technology, a subsidiary of Gionee, secretly implanted the Trojan horse into Gionee phones through the update of the Story Lock Screen app. The app was turned into a tool to profit from Gionee users through unsolicited ads and other unlawful means, according to China Judgment Document Network

COMPANY MADE $4.2 MN FROM VIRUS

- The company reportedly made $4.2 million between December 2018 and October 2019 through the operation of the malware
- The court has sentenced four persons to up to 3.5 years in jail in connection with the incident. In August, another malware was found in Chinese smartphone brands — Tecno and Infinix

0.39%

GIONEE'S SHARE IN INDIAN SMARTPHONE MARKET, ACCORDING TO STATISTA

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VACCINE COMING SOON, SAYS PFIZER

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA
@New Delhi

PFIZER, the first firm to apply for emergency use authorisation in India, is keen to engage with the Indian government to make its Covid-19 vaccine available for use in the country, the US drug maker told *TNIE*.

The company's application to the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization for emergency use nod of the vaccine, developed jointly with Germany-based BioNTech, comes days after receiving the regulatory approval for the vaccine's use in the UK. It has also sought waiver from carrying out clinical trials in India under the new clinical trial rules.

The results of a late-phase trial of the vaccine in six countries on 41,000 volunteers have shown 95% efficacy against coronavirus.

The vaccine needs to be stored at -70 degrees Celsius.

"Pfizer is dedicated to ensure the availability of this vaccine for use by governments across the world. During this pandemic phase, Pfizer will supply this vaccine only through government contracts based on agreements with respective government authorities and following regulatory authorisation or approval," the company told this newspaper in response to queries.

The firm also said it is in talks with Gavi (the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) to ensure broad access and supplies to governments.

While government sources confirmed that talks are on with Pfizer, it may not be practical for the country to procure its vaccine owing to the ultra cold chain supply needed for storage and distribution.

Therefore, the Centre is inclined to depend mainly on Covid-19 vaccines developed, or at least manufactured in the country such as the Oxford vaccine being produced by Serum Institute of India.

Also, the price of the Pfizer vaccine, at $20 per dose (nearly ₹1,500), is a bit too high for a resource-scarce country like India.

During negotiations with the government, the company had suggested affordable options for storage, such as ultra- low temperature freezer, which is commercially available and can extend shelf life for up to six months.

The second option included specially designed, temperature-controlled shippers in which doses will arrive and can be used for temporary storage units.

"They have also informed us the vaccine vials can be kept in refrigeration units at healthcare facilities for up to five days and can be tracked through thermal censors to ensure their location and temperature," a health ministry official said, adding, "All these factors are being considered as of now."

UK prepares for 'historic moment' of vaccination | P7

EXPRESS READ

India win 2nd T20I, beat Oz by 6 wickets

Sydney: India beat Australia by six wickets in the second T20 International to clinch the three-match series at the Sydney Cricket Ground here on Sunday. Put in to bat, Australia scored 194 runs for 5 wickets and India chased down the target in 19.4 overs. **P11**

WITH THIS ISSUE THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE COACH
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) AND 4 PAGES OF CITY EXPRESS

Minor gangraped, 9-year-old sexually assaulted in S'mogga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Shivamogga

Two minor girls were allegedly raped in separate incidents in the city on Saturday. While one of the minor girls was aducted from a hospital and gang-raped by four men, the other girl, a nine-year-old girl, was allegedly raped by a 50-year-old man.

In the first incident, the minor who was taking care of her mother at the McGann Teaching District Hospital for the past one month, was allegedly raped by a ward boy and his friends. On Saturday evening, they took her in a car on the pretext of helping her buy food since most hotels were closed for the past three days following communal clashes. **P5**

Congress asks all state units to support the protest on Tuesday; Left parties, NCP, AAP, TRS, DMK also throw their weight behind agitating farmers

OPPN TO GIVE TEETH TO BANDH

Muslims serve food during the farmers' protest, at Singhu on Sunday | Shekhar Yadav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

THE Bharat Bandh called by agitating farmers on Tuesday received overwhelming support from the Opposition parties, with the Congress, Left and regional outfits throwing their weight behind the protest against the new farm laws.

While the sixth round of talks between the Centre and farmers are scheduled for Wednesday, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar held parleys with his deputies on the scope of concessions to be offered to the farmers.

Congress general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal issued a statement saying all state units of the party will extend support to the proposed Bharat Bandh. He added that Congress workers, volunteers and leaders across the country will organise demonstrations in support of the Bandh call given by 32 farm unions.

Maharashtra NCP unit president Jayant Patil said party workers will join the proposed nationwide shutdown.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar is scheduled to meet President Ram Nath Kovind on December 9 over the farm protest.

The AAP has also decided to extend full support to the bandh, the party announced on Sunday, with the Delhi convenor and cabinet minister Gopal Rai saying that CM Arvind Kejriwal has extended full support to the bandh call. **P7**

IN SOLIDARITY

KARNATAKA FARMERS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ABOUT 50 farmers' organisations in the state have announced their support to the farmers' call for Bharat bandh on December 8, protesting the new farm laws brought by the Centre. They have also threatened to block highways and roads across the state on that day. The next day, they will converge in Bengaluru and lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha president Kodihalli Chandrashekhar said the bandh will be a non-violent movement across the state. Sugarcane Growers' Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar too said they will support the bandh. Meanwhile, Union minister Pralhad Joshi has urged farmers to come for talks with the government. **P4**

Vijender says will return Khel Ratna

New Delhi: Olympian boxer Vijender Singh on Sunday said he will return his Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, the country's highest sporting honour, if the Centre does not withdraw the 3 farm laws. Former national boxing coach Gurbaksh Singh Sandhu had also talked about returning his Dronacharya award **|P7**

MSP recorded sharper climb under UPA govt

KUMAR VIKRAM @New Delhi

AFTER the fifth round of talks with agitating farmers, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday claimed that the current government has done more for farmers when it comes to minimum support price (MSP) than any other. However, an analysis of government data shows that under the previous UPA government, the MSP registered a sharper climb than under the present Modi government.

Tomar claimed that in the last six years, there has been "a complete transformation" in the agriculture sector. "Farmers' income has increased, the MSP has increased and government purchase of farm products has increased," he said.

But, data shows that between 2006-07 and 2013-14, there was a 90 to 205% rise in the minimum support price of major crops, including paddy, wheat, arhar, gram, maize and masoor. **P7**

UPA VS NDA: HOW MSP GROWTH COMPARES

Crop	2006-2007	2013-14	Change	2020-21	Change*
Paddy (Common)	580	1,310	126%	1,868	43%
Wheat	750	1,400	87%	1,975	41%
Gram	1,445	3,100	115%	5,100	65%
Tur (Arhar)	1,410	4,300	205%	6,000	40%
Maize	540	1,310	143%	1,850	41%
Masoor	1,545	2,950	90%	5,100	73%

(Rate ` per quintal)

*% change in MSP compared to 2013-14

State govt hopes to get lucky with sticky Bills as House meets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

The Karnataka legislature will convene for the second time amidst the pandemic for the seven-day winter session starting Monday. With the ruling BJP expected to bring a few controversial bills, including those that were stuck in the Legislative Council during the monsoon session, the opposition parties are girding up to take on the government.

The BJP dispensation is keen to table the APMC bill, Land Reforms Act amendment Bill as well as Industrial Disputes and Certain other Laws (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2020, again, apart from the cow slaughter Bill, which the Congress has been fiercely opposing. The JDS is planning to take on the government on farmers' issues and seek relief to flood-affected victims.

Of the seven days, regular sessions, including Question Hour, will be held on five days while the last two days have been reserved for a discussion on 'One Nation, One election'. As many as 10 bills are expected to be tabled and the government will be hoping to get lucky with their passage. A discussion on the proposed love jihad law can also be expected to raise the heat. **P4**

Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri inspects the Assembly hall ahead of the winter session | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Leopard on prowl! Stay indoors after dusk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ENCOUNTERS of the wild kind are now getting closer home for Bengalureans. With increasing instances of man-animal conflict in an ever-growing city, residents of Nayandanahalli near Turahalli and those living around Bannerghatta National Park are being advised to "spend time indoors during cold winter nights" through loudspeakers. This comes after two incidents involving a leopard and a tusker were reported in these parts.

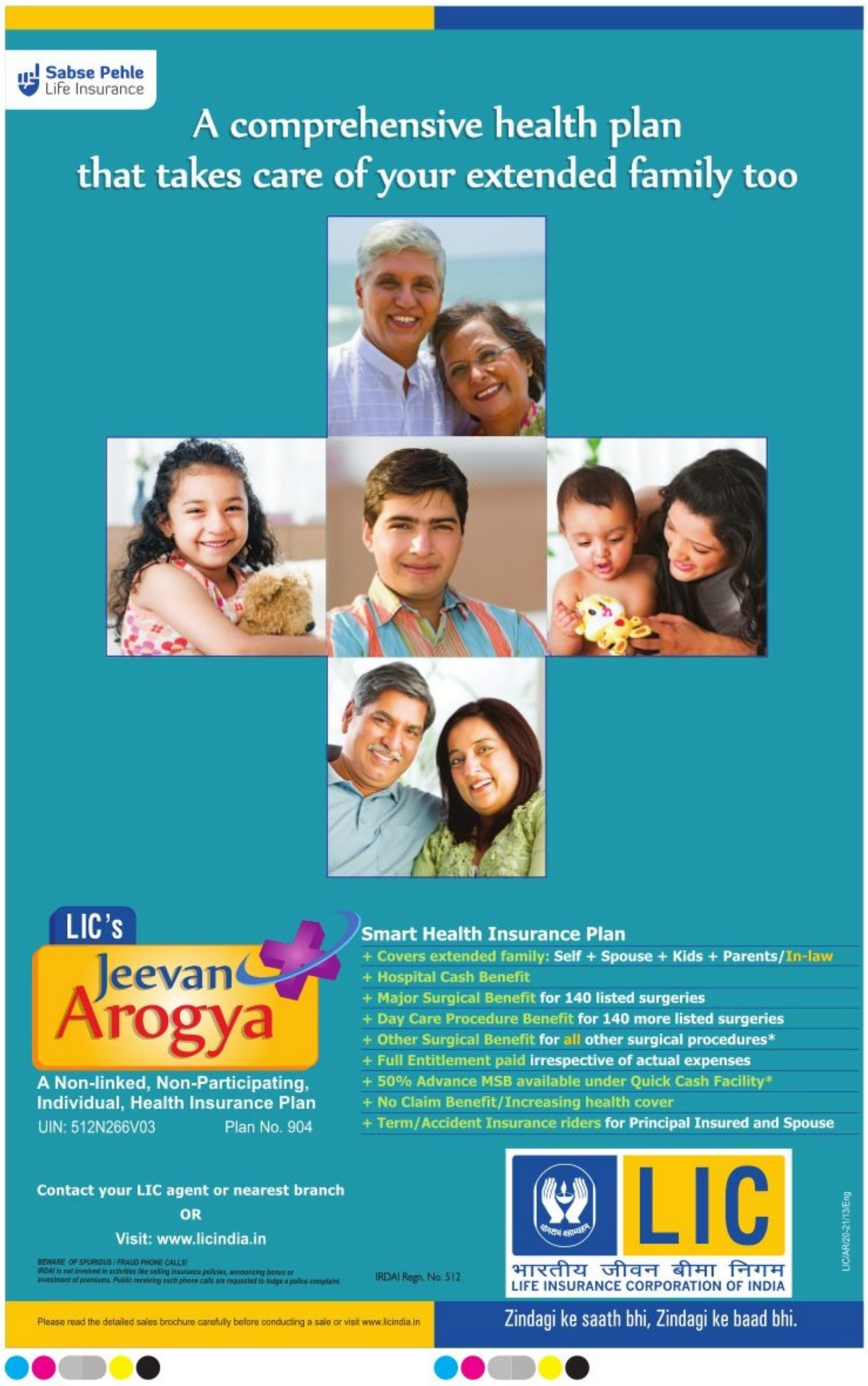
A leopard reportedly killed five chickens and goat kids late on Saturday night

According to locals and forest officials, a leopard reportedly killed five chickens and goat kids late on Saturday night in Veerabhadra Nagar, Nayanadanahalli. Though no recent case of human casualty has been reported, the incident has created a sense of fear among locals.

The police and forest department officials patrolled the area on Sunday, looking for signs like animal footprints and droppings. "After thorough combing of the area, what looked like a pug mark was found at some distance from the sheds where the dead livestock were found," a forest official said. **P5**

A tusker was wandering on the road when the biker noticed it. As the animal tried to charge, the biker fell off the vehicle and fractured his leg

Forest official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A comprehensive health plan that takes care of your extended family too
LIC's Jeevan Arogya
A Non-linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Health Insurance Plan
UIN: 512N266V03 Plan No. 904
Smart Health Insurance Plan
+ Covers extended family: Self + Spouse + Kids + Parents/In-law
+ Hospital Cash Benefit
+ Major Surgical Benefit for 140 listed surgeries
+ Day Care Procedure Benefit for 140 more listed surgeries
+ Other Surgical Benefit for all other surgical procedures*
+ Full Entitlement paid irrespective of actual expenses
+ 50% Advance MSB available under Quick Cash Facility*
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ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 07/12/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Karthika • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Sashti 4:10 pm
Nakshatra: Ashlesha 12:13 pm • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.29 am
Sunset 7.53 pm
Moonrise 12.00 am
Moonset 12.05 pm

University adds milk, eggs to hostel menu

Additions to the list have been made to help students build immunity, says Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

THE Bangalore University (BU) and the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) are leading by example in keeping their resident students fit — by ensuring that students are welcomed the best way possible and kept healthy.

Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor Venugopal says additions have been made to the food menu. Eggs, Kashaya (concoction for immunity), fruits and milk are being given to students residing in hostels to increase their immunity. This is in addition to the food menu that the students decide.

Affiliated colleges were also suggested to give importance to nutrition levels of students, Venugopal told *TNIE*. However, due to complications in monitoring and micro-managing them, the university has not forced a menu upon them.

University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering has about 100 students and Bangalore University about 500 students of the final year who are residing in hostels.

The universities are also sheltering about 40 per cent of students from the government-run OBC hostels that have not opened up yet. Additionally, students in community hostels and paying guest accommodations in the vicinity of the campus have also started boarding at the university hostels.

The number of students only keeps growing, added Venugopal, At present, 50 per cent of the final-year students have already arrived on campus.

The V-C also said that the university authorities had already placed before the syndicate a proposal to the increase the mess charges by ₹20-25 to make up for the increased prices of food items. The syndicate will meet on December 18, where the proposal is expected to be ratified.

The amount of ₹75 mess charge per day per student is being divided between the state government, which pays ₹22, and the university, which is chipping in with the remaining ₹53.

> **Authorities at Bangalore University had already placed before the syndicate a proposal to the increase the mess charges by ₹20-25 to make up for the increased prices of food items**
>
> Venugopal, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University

EXPRESS READ

Security guard falls to death at theatre

Bengaluru: A security guard died after he allegedly slipped from Triveni theatre in Majestic on Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Chandrappa (65), who was a resident of RT Nagar. The police said that the incident occurred at around 8 am when the sexagenarian went to help a person who was putting up a flex on the theatre. He was standing at a height of more than 30 feet and allegedly lost balance and fell. As he sustained severe head injuries, he died on the spot. "During the inquiry, it was found that though it is was not |his duty to put up posters and flexes, Chandrappa was helping the staff with it. We have taken up a case of unnatural death and are investigating," the Upparpet police added.

1st PUC admission date extended to Dec 12

Bengaluru: The admission date for first Pre-university College students has been extended to December 12 for the academic year 2020-21. The second PUC admissions were extended till November 27. The department said that it has also decided to extend the date of change of college till December 24.

EVERY DROP COUNTS

Citizens participate in a walkathon to create awareness on saving water at Lalbagh, in Bengaluru on Sunday | MEGHANA SASTRY

Hennagara Lake Collective and SayTrees Environmental Trust plans to plant 9.5K saplings

Miyawaki forest coming up at Hennagara lake

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE once-pristine Hennagara Lake off the Jigani-Bommasandra Ring Road, which was being used as a garbage dump yard in the recent past, is getting a new lease of life. On Sunday, as part of a project to green the lake bund, 250 saplings were planted using the Miyawaki method. In the first phase, 2,000 saplings will be planted over the next week, and overall, the Hennagara Lake Collective and NGO SayTrees Environmental Trust are planning to plant 9,500 saplings.

Miyawaki is a Japanese-style afforestation method of raising trees in very close proximity to improve the environment.

A solo fight put up by an eco-conscious freelance content writer, Tushar Chandra, is instrumental in helping the lake, stretching up to 330 acres, reach this stage. With repeated requests to stop disposing of garbage near the lake falling on deaf ears, Chandra had to file a complaint at the Jigani police station in February against a water tank owner and garbage contractor, S Shivaraj -- whose mother is a gram panchayat member.

Chandra told *TNIE*, "We got permission from both the Gram Panchayat and the Anekal Town Planning Authority to create the Miyawaki forest. We had forced Shivaraj to clear all the garbage he had dumped here months ago and end future dumping. The planting is done on top priority to ensure that no one in future thinks of using the place as a garbage dump or other illegal activities." The contractor has filed a complaint against Chandra too.

> **We have seen through our experience that whenever a Miyawaki is done, there is a drop in temperature in the area. The lake has less green belt and it will definitely attract biodiversity to the spot**
>
> Shashank Sharma, environmentalist

Shivaraj claimed that he had removed all the garbage from the lake six months ago. "My name was somehow brought into the FIR to defame me. I had even arranged for an excavator to clear the plot for some trees that were planted recently," he insisted.

Explaining the benefits of a Miyawaki forest, SayTrees Environmental Trust Programme Manager Shashank Sharma said, "We have seen through our experience that whenever a Miyawaki is done, there is a drop in temperature in the area. The lake has less green belt and it will definitely attract biodiversity to the spot. CSR funding from corporates will help us put it in place."

Among the trees that will come up here are Pongamia pinnata (Honge); Ficus benghalensis (banyan); Ficus religiosa (peepal), Moringa oleifera (drumstick), Syzygium cumini (Jamun) and Artocarpus heterophyllus (jackfruit).

3 YEARS OF RERA, YET 3.3 LAKH HOME BUYERS AT A LOSS

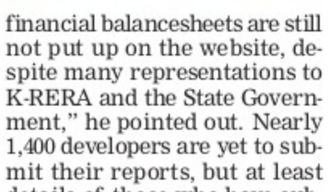
S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

NEARLY 3.3 lakh property buyers who invested in 1,100 projects in the State are waiting to register their homes and fear that their funds are stuck, despite the existence of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA), meant to safeguard buyer interest, says the Forum for People's Collective Efforts.

Collating data on housing projects in Karnataka up to December 3, available on the RERA web portal, M S Shankar, secretary of the forum's State chapter, said, "As of today, 1,100 projects are stuck. Assuming each property costs at least ₹50 lakh, and up to 80% of the money has been paid up by nearly 3.3 lakh buyers, which is an average of ₹40 lakh, it translates to a whopping ₹120 lakh crore blocked in the projects."

Shankar said 1,044 projects remain unregistered with RERA, while developers of 866 projects claimed they have been completed. Of the 4,410 projects which have applied, 3,704 have been registered, he said.

"The minute details of the projects, quarterly reports and



financial balancesheets are still not put up on the website, despite many representations to K-RERA and the State Government," he pointed out. Nearly 1,400 developers are yet to submit their reports, but at least details of those who have submitted need to be put up, he added.

RERA Secretary K S Latha Kumari said it is not possible to display details furnished by the developers until they are thoroughly verified by an empanelled in-house team. "We cannot put up details of those who have submitted alone. We have issued a warning to upload quarterly reports by December 31. After details are submitted and verified, they can be displayed on its website for the public," she said.

Conceding that RERA still has much to do, she added that the organisation was formed only in July 2017 and was doing its best to help buyers.

Among the buyers who have invested in properties which have been prolonged indefinitely are those who sought to buy 1BHK apartments at Pashima Brookfields in Bidrahalli. Col (retd) M Narasimha paid ₹22 lakh to buy a flat for his son here. "Work began in August 2013 and was supposed to conclude by August 2016. It is now four years after the deadline has elapsed and only 50% of the project is ready."

The buyers have now approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal seeking justice, he added.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

07th December : My key sign today is Libra, the celestial balance. This symbol is first found in ancient Egypt when it was believed that the hearts of dead people were weighed against a feather. If the heart was lighter, then the soul was righteous, and it passed on to a happy life in the after-world.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Looking at the long-term, life is still very much dominated by the passage of benevolent Jupiter through a sector of your horoscope which is significant for both your work and home life - which just about covers most options! Somehow, sometime, you are going to turn up trumps. Hopefully, it will be the right thing at the right time!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Once sensitive Venus alters its position, which should happen before too much longer, you will find it so much easier to relate to other people in a sensible, mature fashion. Do your best to clear up all misunderstandings before they become accepted wisdom.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
When Mercury is behaving in such an odd fashion, you must accept plans being cancelled or delayed. This could actually be to your advantage! Your main concern will be to press on and complete current projects regardless of whether partners agree or approve. After all, why should you always do what they want?

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Intriguing celestial patterns encourage you to go your own way. Please press on with optimism and absolute confidence in your unique destiny. As you've discovered in the past, the more you believe in yourself, the better your chances. Have faith in the future!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Please don't worry if social agreements seem hard to come by, or if your best-laid plans come to nought. It is in the nature of the times that all discussions and proposals should be put on hold. One thing you can be pleased about is that by next week partners will no longer be holding you back.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
There are ways and means of recouping your losses and, in the long-run, you will benefit from current developments. However, in the short-term, an established arrangement may come radically unstuck. You never know, though, it might be to your advantage if you're set free to reconsider your plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Let others carp and criticise and play their pathetic little games. You have too much to think about to be involved with people who long ago abandoned any real desire to improve themselves. The time has come to give a firm 'no' to individuals who don't deserve your attention.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You must pay very close attention to what companions have to say. However, I doubt if you will be able to make very much sense of other people's intentions, as will become only too obvious after a few days. In a week of change, you must keep your options open.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You may be obliged to alter your tune, or at least amend your plans. However, in spite of any indications to the contrary, there is no threat to your longer-term hopes, wishes and ambitions. In fact, your stars are due to grow sweeter and more sympathetic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
What can be done to salvage the situation at work, where your plans and proposals need a boost? Your best policy now may be to bide your time and wait for the tide to turn, as it surely will. Until then, you can continue to refine your ideas in secret.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Last week, the excitable side of your nature was stimulated. This week, it is your more down-to-earth qualities which will come in handy, enabling you to avoid some of the confusion which afflicts your fellows. Take a practical approach and you'll gain a head-start on rivals.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
It does seem that you are about to gain the financial advantage. This is a consequence of clear communication, plus somebody's good intentions. And that's why you should give partners the benefit of the doubt. If you have time, chase a romantic opening.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

GOOFING OFF AGAIN ?!
I'M JUST STRATEGIZING HOW BEST TO DO THE JOB
GET BACK TO WORK !!
THE ARMY JUST DOESN'T CARE ABOUT EFFICIENCY
10/5

BLONDIE

I'D BETTER START PUTTING ON MY MAKEUP IF WE'RE GOING TO SEE A MOVIE
DON'T WORRY, HONEY. WE'LL BE SITTING IN THE DARK ANYWAY
YOU KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN THAT THE WAY IT SOUNDED, SWEETHEART
I KNOW WHAT I HEARD, DEAR

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

2		9	8				4	5
5	6		7		3	2		
	7			4				6
	9		3			6	8	7
7	8	2			4		9	
8				2			6	
		7	1		6		5	3
6	4				9	8		2

EASY

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

1	8	7	5	4	6	3	9	2
2	6	9	8	3	1	4	7	5
5	3	4	7	9	2	6	1	8
4	7	2	6	1	8	5	3	9
9	1	8	3	5	4	2	6	7
3	5	6	2	7	9	8	4	1
6	9	1	4	2	5	7	8	3
8	2	3	9	6	7	1	5	4
7	4	5	1	8	3	9	2	6

JUMBLE — THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KEYRP
NGIRW
GNOREL
NTOAAS

I'll give you a call and we'll do lunch.
Great! And I'll get you those contacts I told you about.
WHEN THE TENNIS PLAYERS TALKED BUSINESS DURING THEIR MATCH, THEY WERE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ (Answers Monday)

Saturday's Jumbles: INEPT GUIDE BETTOR TOWARD
Answer: If the newspaper reporter was going to turn in the story in time, he'd need to — GET "WRITE" ON IT

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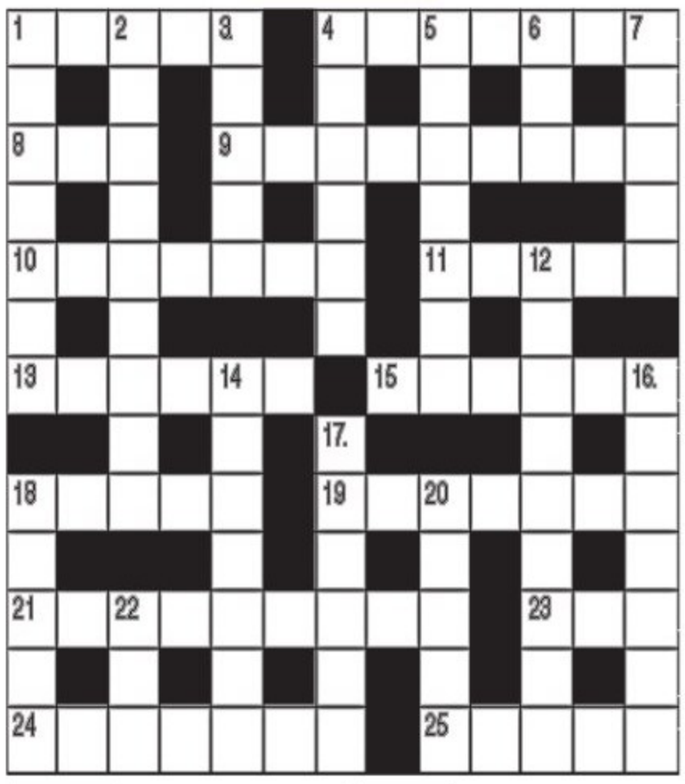
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 A Scottish boy returns from a foreign country (5)
4 Singular-looking giant? (7)
8 Go around with an expression of surprise (3)
9 Tiny crate breaks; you can bet on it (9)
10 Where Elgar is orchestrated in North Africa (7)
11 Suggest I am to practise a trade apparently (5)
13 Jumps at openings (6)
15 Standing in a rank (6)
18 Turner writes bilingual articles (5)
19 Their work is bound to receive public attention (7)
21 Indeed the papers tend to make one, these days (9)
23 The one that's an expert (3)
24 Stone isle (7)
25 Headstableboy drove off with a lively horse (5)

DOWN

1 Fag chewed by German hounds (7)
2 Angry perhaps to be dining with a worker (9)
3 A comfortable recess? (5)
4 Worries over a second brief stroke (6)
5 Talk about Spanish river transport (7)
6 Have to concede (3)
7 It's a bit fishy lying in such a nervous manner (5)
12 Custom requires two men to take a time (9)
14 This girl may have sat here (7)
16 Cease to use money outside America (7)
17 Hesitated to have father taken advantage of (6)
18 Left side shelf (5)
20 Naturally they have their ups and down (5)
22 Bird dish (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Inordinate, 8 Timon, 9 Pitcher, 10 Masonic, 11 Orlop, 12 Sesame, 14 Show up, 17 Goner, 19 Stirrup, 21 Almoner, 22 Amour, 23 Sorry state.

Down: 2 Nemesis, 3 Run in, 4 Impact, 5 Antioch, 6 Ethel, 7 Graph paper, 8 Time signal, 13 Mariner, 15 Work out, 16 Astray, 18 Names, 20 Inapt.

ICU bed availability concern in Mysuru

As second wave looms, health dept audit shows 480-500 beds required, only 238 available

AJITH M S @Mysuru

AT a time when experts are flagging a resurgence of Covid-19 cases, concerns are emerging about the number of ICU beds in the district and whether they are enough to tackle a possible second wave.

Though in comparison to the first two instances of surge in cases, Mysuru is well placed in terms of hospital beds especially oxygenated ones and those at private hospitals, the situation is different in the case of ICUs.

A recent death audit by the health department showed the total number of ICU beds in the district as 238, including the recent addition of 46 ICU beds at the new government-run-trauma care centre.

However, the same report, authored by senior medical department officials also predicts that in case another spike, the district will require 480-500 ICU beds. It points out that many deaths occurred due to non-availability of ICU beds and 23 per cent of deaths were of patients brought late to the hospital.

An audit by health department says many deaths occurred due to non-availability of ICU beds and 23 per cent were of patients brought late to the hospital | EXPRESS

> We are carrying out over 4,500 tests daily and chances of late detection are low. Our strategy is to catch the infected early to reduce the number of people requiring critical care
>
> T Amarnath, District Health Officer

ICUs are important as during the earlier surge, at least 3-4 per cent of active Covid-19 patients needed critical care. Pleading anonymity, a doctor said there is a need to address staff crunch of trained nurses and group D workers at ICUs.

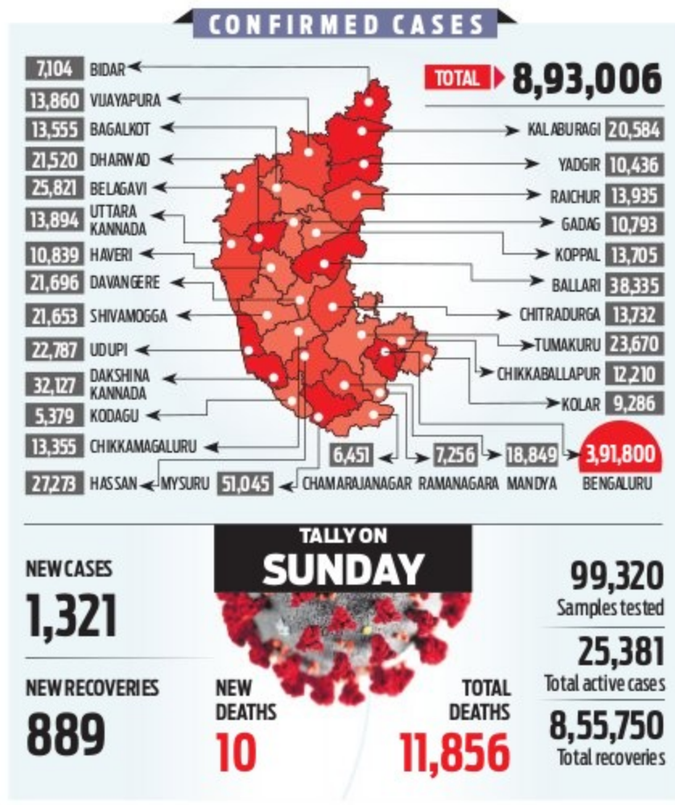
District Health Officer T Amarnath, however, said there is no need for concern as they are well prepared to tackle any adversities, unlike earlier.

"We are carrying out over 4,500 tests daily and chances of late detection are low. Our strategy is to catch the infected early to reduce the number of people requiring critical care," he said.

Even taluk hospitals are equipped with five ICU beds each and private hospitals too have agreed to help, he added.

More than the concern about infrastructure, people need to be careful and follow the guidelines and precautions, he said.

Dean and Director of MMC&RI Dr C P Nanjaraj said earlier, cases spiked because of opening up of traffic in the city and now, there are chances of another spike as train and flight services are being relaxed.



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Awards to honour frontline workers

Corona Warrior Awards 2020, an initiative to acknowledge and felicitate frontline workers, was organised by Wekey Media Pvt Ltd, in association with Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA). The felicitation ceremony was held on Sunday. The Awards was created to recognise the work of doctors, police, and social workers, and others who are relentlessly working towards Covid safety.

Medicos to start black ribbon protest today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

RESIDENT doctors and medical students across Karnataka are going on a symbolic protest from Monday, blaming the government for not listening to their demands for the last nine months. They will wear black ribbons and put up posters at government hospitals across the state till their demands are met.

They urged the government to resume non-Covid services at Victoria Hospital, as the number of Covid cases are on the decline, and said medical colleges across the state should be converted into non-Covid hospitals to benefit the public.

Dr Dayanand Sagar, president, Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD), asked, "What will happen to thousands of non-Covid patients who are dependent on Victoria Hospital? What about the students who got admission to medical colleges this year? They have not had practical classes for nine months."

The government should exempt them from paying tuition fees this year, they said. "Since the lockdown, postgraduates, house surgeons and undergraduates are all involved in Covid-related duties. We urge the government to exempt them from paying academic fees for 2020-21," they added.

Majority of doctors are yet to receive Covid risk allowance, while some senior residents have not been paid in many institutes, they added.

Even though medical colleges have started classes from December 1, there is a lack of clinical material, they pointed out.

Amid pandemic, hosps see five-fold rise in demand for flu shots

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

WITH the onset of winter, hospitals are seeing a rise in demand for flu shots. Flu vaccine covers diseases such as H1N1 and seasonal flu. These vaccines are usually given to people during winter as the incidence of infection is said to be high. The demand has increased five-fold amid the pandemic.

The doctors say that it is important for the government to stock up on the flu vaccines. Otherwise, it can lead to a 'twindemic' – an overlap of the seasonal influenza and Covid-19 – which will be more difficult to handle, they warn.

Dr Harish Kumar, consultant - Paediatrics & Paediatric Intensive Care, Aster CMI Hospital, said, "Of late, people who were not opting to take these vaccines have started doing so. And this has led to a shortage. People need to understand that taking a flu shot does not prevent them from contracting corona and they need to continue following all the necessary precautions. While the demand has increased, the supply side is yet to match it."

Dr Dwijendra Prasad, senior consultant at Prakriya Hospital, said, "The shots are recommended for diabetic and asthmatic cases with malignancy and people aged 60 or above even if they don't have comorbidities. This will not help in preventing Covid-19. But in a post-Covid scene, it may help in decreasing the infection in already-compromised lungs," he said.

A health worker marks a vial carrying a sample, collected for RT-PCR test, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Health professionals say that the government should stock up on the flu vaccine. "The manufacturers are already seeing a high demand and it is extremely crucial that the healthcare agencies and the government take every possible step to prevent any other viral infections from spreading during this time. The government should consider increasing the production capacity to provide influenza cover for all," said a doctor.

Four Shivamogga units to store vaccine

Shivamogga: The district administration is taking all necessary preparations to administer the Covid-19 vaccine to frontline health workers in the first phase. Four mega storage rooms have been identified to store vaccines in bulk quantities. The state government has instructed the districts to send the list of private and government frontline workers to the state government. The process of data collection is in progress. District Health Officer (DHO) Dr Rajesh Suragihalli told *The New Indian Express* that a total of 20,549 health workers have been identified. "The vaccine is expected to be ready by the end of January. But the government has asked the department to make all arrangements with a detailed list of workers," he said. DHO said that the details of the frontline workers are being uploaded to 'CoWin-20' app. **ENS**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CENTRAL CIRCLE, RURAL WORKS, BHUBANESWAR

O-649 No._____/Date. 02.12.2020

"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work for the year 2020-21

1.	Name of the Work	:	Bridge Works for the year 2020-21
2.	Total No. of Packages	:	1 No. of Bridge Work
3.	Estimated Cost of the Package	:	Rs.356.79 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	Estimated cost more than Rs.3.00 Crores & up to Rs. 6.00 Crores. A class & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of completion	:	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Central Circle Rural Works, Bhubaneswar	Tender- On-line- C.C.-09 of 2020	09.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	24.12.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.	21.12.2020 up to 3.00 P.M.	28.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	31.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
Central Circle, Rural Works, Bhubaneswar

OIPR 25082/11/0004/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the property described in the **SCHEDULE** hereunder, from its owner **Sri. V. Sujendra Raju**. Any person /s/ bank/ society/ firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof, is hereby invited to lodge their objections/claims if any, in writing with documentary proof of their manner of right, title, interest or charge, with the undersigned within ten days (10 days) from date of publication of this notice, after which period my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property, on the basis that there are no objections / claims of whatsoever nature.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Vacant Site No.2062, present B.B.M.P. Khatha No.2192/2151/2062, in the layout in several survey numbers at Allalasandra, Chikkabommasandra and Jakkur Plantation, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, formed by the Karnataka State Judicial Department Employees House Building Co-operative Society Limited, Bangalore, as per the plan approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all total area of 2400 Square feet and bounded on the East by: Park, West by : Road, North by : Site No.2061 and South by : Site No.2063.

Sd/- **BIPIN HEGDE, BAL, LL.B,**
Advocate
No.11, Jeevan Building,
Kumara Park, Bangalore 560 001.
Phone : 080 22351308

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Notice IFB Nos. 61 to 74/2019-20 Dt.20.02.2020

Tender for total 16 Nos. of works i.e. 04 Nos. of works costing below Rs.50.00 Lakh and **12 No. of works** costing above Rs.50.00 Lakh in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam are invited through 'e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time	:	07.12.2020 at 11.00 AM
Bid Document downloadting End Date & Time	:	21.12.2020 at 3.30 PM
Last Date & Time for submission of Bids	:	21.12.2020 at 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Price Bids (for works costing below Rs.50.00 lakh)	:	15.12.2020 at 06.00 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage (for work costing above Rs.50.00 lakh)	:	21.12.2020 at 06.00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage (for work costing above Rs.50.00 lakh)	:	22.12.2020 at 2.00 PM
Date of opening of TQ Stage (for works costing above Rs.50.00 lakh)	:	23.12.2020 at 11.00 AM

• **Note: Reverse Tendering Applicable for Works costing Rs. 1.00 Crore and above**
Further details can be seen @ **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**

08394 - 259114
Fax 08394 - 259167

Sd/- K.V.Ramana,
Superintending Engineer,
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
49, "Parisara Bhavan", Church Street, Bengalure-560 001
Phone: 080-2558 6520/ 2558 9112 Fax: 080 - 2558 6321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: www.kspcb.gov.in

NO.KSPCB/69/SEO/MINES/EPH/2020-21/3772 DATE:04/12/2020

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. JSW Steel Limited has proposed to undertake expansion of existing Integrated Steel plant capacity from 16 MTPA to 18 MTPA & Captive Power Plant of capacity 1,490 MW in a total area of 182.1 Hectare in **Vijayanagar Works, Toranagallu Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District**. The project has to obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF, Government of India, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the MoEF, Government of India, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. F. No. J-11011/489/2009-IA.II(I) Dated: 09.10.2018 and request of the project proponent dated 22.11.2019, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board. The Environmental Public Hearing was earlier **scheduled on 05.12.2020** and the same was published in the newspapers (Kannada: Prajavaani & English: The Indian Express) on 04.11.2020. It was postponed as per the instructions of Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District due to the Gram Panchayat Election and the Environmental Public Hearing **is re-scheduled on 08.01.2021.**

The details of the project are as follows:

1.	Name of the Company & Address : **M/s. JSW Steel Limited,** Toranagallu Village, Sandur Taluk, Vidyanagar P. O., Ballari District – 583 275
2.	Proposed Location of Mine : **M/s. JSW Steel Limited, Vijayanagar Works, Toranagallu Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District**
3.	Details of activity : Proposed to undertake expansion of existing Integrated Steel plant capacity from 16 MTPA to 18 MTPA & Captive Power Plant of capacity 1,490 MW.
4.	Pollution control measures: Quality of construction wastewater emanating from the construction site will be controlled through the existing drainage system with sediment traps (silting basin as water intercepting ditch) for arresting the silt / sediment load before its disposal. The sediment traps and storm water drainage network will be periodically cleaned and especially before monsoon season. Construction materials will be stored in covered warehouses or enclosed spaces to prevent the windblown fugitive emissions. Adequate dust suppression measures such as regular water sprinkling at vulnerable areas of construction sites will be undertaken to control fugitive dust during material handling and hauling activities in dry seasons.
5.	Date, time and venue of public hearing : **08.01.2021 at 11:00 AM – at the proposed project area of M/s. JSW Steel Limited, Vijayanagar Works, Toranagallu Village, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District**
6.	Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Ballari. (c) District Industries Centre, Ballari. (d) Town Municipal Council, Kurekuppa. (e) Village Panchayath Office, Vaddu, Kurekuppa & Toranagallu. (f) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ballari. (g) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate change, South Zonal Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. **(h) HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/ E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District, Ballari). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: http://kspcb.gov.in.**

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

AVOID USE OF PLASTICS, BE 'ECO' FRIENDLY

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BEYOND CALL OF DUTY

Ambulance driver a beacon of hope!

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

HE has not taken a single day's leave in the last six months. This is one of the reasons why he has become the talk of the town. More importantly, **Veerayya Putrayya Hiremath**, an ambulance driver from Ron town, has been an inspiration for many by motivating and ferrying more than 250 Covid-19 patients to the government hospital.

He was not just an impersonal driver. He motivated patients – told them not to worry as Covid-19 was not a deadly disease and could be cured with timely treatment. The result of his inspiring words – many patients in Ron wished to go back to their homes in Veerayya's ambulance after recovering from Covid-19.

Veerayya has been working as an ambulance driver for the last eight years in Ron Government Hospital. After Covid-19 outbreak, his friends and family advised him to look for another job as they didn't want him to be exposed to the pandemic risk. But Veerayya did not agree and continued his work. He even cancelled his marriage anniversary event and other family functions and has been continuously working as a Covid warrior.

Mahammad Shafi, Regional Officer of 108 ambulance in Ron taluk said, "We are lucky to have Veerayya with us. His words gave patients confidence to beat the virus. He is a role model to others. He will be ready 24X7 to work and has not taken a single leave. We have told them to take leave for two days and relax but he refused and said that he will work till Covid-19 vanishes." Veerayya said, "During such times, I don't want to rest as my services are needed. The taluk administration felicitated me as the best Covid warrior, which is my duty. I am grateful to them."

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED
109, First Floor, A - Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

TENDER - CUM - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Properties Mortgaged to Repco Home Finance Ltd. Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002
Whereas **Borrower: Mrs. K. Nagalakshmi,** W/o, T.J. Venkate Gowda, **Co-Borrower: Mr. T.J. Venkate Gowda,** S/o, Javare Gowda, have borrowed money from Repco Home Finance Limited, **Bangalore Branch (now the account transferred to ARB Bangalore)** against the mortgage of the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder, the company has issued a **Demand Notice** under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 on **10-07-2019** calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being vide **Loan Account No. 2581860000231 & 2581860000251** being **Rs.10,63,826/- & Rs.38,32,985/-** respectively on **10-07-2019** together with further interest, costs and expenses within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

Whereas the borrower & co-borrowers having failed to pay the amount due to the Company as called for in the said demand notice, the Company has taken possession of the secured asset more fully described in the schedule hereunder on **19-08-2020** under Section 13 (4) of the Act.

Whereas the borrowers having failed to pay the dues in full, the secured creditor, Repco Home Finance Limited has decided to sell the under mentioned secured asset in **"As is where is condition"** and **"As is what is condition"** under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for realization of the debts dues to the company. The dues of the borrower being vide **Loan Account No. 2581860000231 & 2581860000251** being **Rs. 12,98,717/- & Rs.46,30,164/-** respectively as on 19-11-2020.

DETAILS OF SALE

Date and Time of E-Auction	**19-01-2021, 11.00 A.M -12.00 P.M** (with unlimited auto extension of 5 minutes)
EMD (10% of Reserve Price)	**Rs.8,52,800/-** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand and Eight Hundred Only)
Reserve Price	**Rs.85,28,000/-** (Rupees Eighty Five Lakhs and Twenty Eight Only)
Last Date & time for submitting E -Tenders	**18-01-2021,** 04.00 P.M
Minimum Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.25,000/-**

Description of Property:

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. 03, Katha No. 344, Old KH No. 20, Assessment No. 103, situated at Gangodanahalli Village, Dasanapura Village, Madavara Village Panchayath, Bangalore North, Bangalore City, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1500 Sq.ft., together with building constructed thereon Bangalore and bounded on:-

East by: Remaining property of Smt. Chikkamma **West by:** 25 feet Road **North by:** Site No. 02 **South by:** Site No. 04

Terms and Conditions

The intending bidders of the property should send their bids in the prescribed tender form in a closed cover along with EMD of 10% of the reserve price by means of RTGS / NEFT / DD / Banker's Cheque drawn in favour of **"Repco Home Finance Limited"** payable at **Bengaluru** or on the website **WWW.Bankeauctions.com.** Tender form not in the prescribed format will not be accepted.

For inspection of the property the intending bidders may contact the Branch Head, Repco Home Finance Limited, **Bengaluru** Branch, on all working days between 10 A.M to 5 P.M. **Contact Nos.080–41233109, 99867-72220.**

Place: **Bengaluru**
Date: **30-11-2020**

Authorised officer
Repco Home Finance Limited

Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
No. 42, MC&A House, Millers Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No. MCA/EOI/BA/e-portal/Event-16 & Print-17/2020-21 Dated : 07.12.2020

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

MC&A Ltd., invites EoI as per KTPP Act, 1999 through e-procurement portal from interested vendors/agencies/firms for Empanelment as Business Associates for providing services for **(1) Event and Other Media (2) Printing and other Print Related Services.** Those interested may download the documents from e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of EoI : **16.12.2020 up to 6.00 p.m.** The Management has the right to accept or reject any or all the EoI without assigning any reasons thereon.

Sd/- Managing Director

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

No.: FD 01 BMB 2020 Date: 04.12.2020

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount	:	**Total Rs. 2000 Crore (Rs.1000 Crore - 10 Year Tenure and Rs.1000 Crore - 16 Year Tenure)**
2. Method of Issue	:	**By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)**
3. Date of auction	:	**December 08, 2020**

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

DIPR/DDU/43/MCA/20-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Seer to launch padayatra to Bengaluru

Kudalasangama Panchamasali Peetha seer Basava Jaya Mruthyunjaya Swami will launch a 450-km padayatra from Kudalasangama to Bengaluru on December 23, demanding that the Central and state governments accord OBC and 2A status to the Lingayat Panchamasali community

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Big boys arrive

When Namma Shasakaru started arriving at the Legislators' Home on Sunday, it was a blur of top-end cars and SUVs. The LH parking lot was a chock-a-block with over 200 vehicles, a majority of them pasted with the usual sticker -- Shasakaru. The legislators have chosen to travel in their own vehicles and by road this time to avoid the dreaded virus. At the parking lot, however, the chatter among huddles of drivers was about making it to Bengaluru in record time, close shaves en route, etc.

Covid, not a big worry

Despite the threat of Covid second wave looming, the legislators, bureaucrats and Vidhana Soudha staffers seemed relaxed. One political party insider reasoned that though a Covid vaccine is yet to arrive, legislators and their hangers-on have got themselves doses of BCG, MMR and Flu vaccines as a preventive measure. Experts and specialist doctors have advised that these interim vaccines should help protect them till the 'pucca' shot arrives.

A piece of advice, Mr Singh

It is high time Arun Singh, BJP national general secretary, Karnataka in-charge, took a leaf out of the books of state party leaders, MLA C T Ravi and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, who are holding various responsibilities at the national level. Both Ravi and Surya seem well versed with the technology as well as the regional needs. But Arun Singh, who was in the state to attend BJP executive committee meeting, tweeted in Hindi recently. The very vocal Twitterati gave him a piece of advice, asking him to hire someone who knows Kannada to reach out to people.

State ryots to block roads, highways on Dec 8

Over 50 organisations to support farmers in Delhi; Nearly 10K ryots to lay siege to Soudha on December 9

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ABOUT 50 farmer organisations in Karnataka, including the Karnataka Rajya Pranthya Raitha Sangha, National Kisan Mahasangha and Karnataka Hasiru Sene, will respond to the farmers' call for a Bharat Bandh on December 8, and converge on Bengaluru the next day to lay siege to Vidhana Soudha to express their solidarity with farmers protesting around Delhi against farm laws enacted by the Central Government.

They have threatened to block highways and roads across Karnataka on Tuesday 8 to express their solidarity with their counterparts who have been protesting on the borders of Delhi for the past 11 days.

Raitha Sangha president Kodihalli Chandrashekhar said on Sunday, "We will support the bandh as a non-violent movement across the state, in district headquarters, taluk headquarters and villages."

He said farmers in the state have already been told to block highways and roads. The next day, about 10,000 farmers from all over the state are expected to land in Bengaluru to lay siege to Vidhana Soudha even as the seven-day state legislative session will be in session since Monday.

Chandrashekhar said this is to "send a warning to the state government, so that the chief minister passes the message to the Central Government to withdraw the farm laws".

"For the past 11 days, farmers are staging demonstrations near Delhi. I appeal to every section of society to cooperate with us," he said, assuring the people that the bandh would be peaceful.

On December 9, farmers will assemble at Freedom Park and then proceed to Vidhana Soudha. "The government should not use the police to curb the protest," he said, adding that he is also seeking the support of the public for the agitation.

Union minister Pralhad Joshi, meanwhile, urged farmers to withdraw their agitation and come for talks with the government. "If there is confusion in the law, the government is ready to discuss it with farmers and address the issues. The government will initiate talks on December 9 and farmers should make use of the opportunity," he said.

A representational photograph of farmers' protest | EXPRESS

> We will support the bandh as a non-violent movement across the state, in district headquarters, taluk headquarters and villages
>
> Kodihalli Chandrashekhar, Raitha Sangha President

In Mysuru, Kurubur Shanthakumar, president of the Sugarcane Growers' Association, said they will support the bandh and added that the protest under Aikya Horatta Samiti in Bengaluru will also start from Monday.

"Instead of focusing on the welfare of common people, the government is working in the interest of corporates. Despite protests, they are not budging on the demands of farmers. We request everyone to fight for the cause of those who grow the food you eat every day," he said, adding that protests will also be taken out in taluk centres on the bandh day.

Farmers' associations in Chitradurga too appealed to the public to support the bandh. They said that the struggle is to pressurise the Central and State Governments to withdraw the new laws enacted against the farming community.

The farmers have been protesting against Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020. These laws were enacted in September as reforms in the agriculture sector to eliminate middlemen and allow farmers to sell anywhere in the country.

However, farmers feel that these laws could be used to do away with the minimum support price and the mandis, making the farmers vulnerable to big corporates.

Session may delay cabinet expansion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH the week-long cabinet session beginning on Monday, hopes of a possible cabinet expansion or reshuffle have started to fade.

Also, with the bypolls to Maski and Basavkalyan Assembly segments and Belagavi Lok Sabha seat expected to be announced soon, the model code of conduct will come into force, making it difficult for Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to take up cabinet expansion in the near future, experts said.

Insiders said that the BJP leadership too may not be keen to upset the applecart as a cabinet expansion or reshuffle leads to dissatisfaction, bringing instability within the party. Also, they are waiting for a nod from the BJP high command for the expansion.

Newly-minted legislators MTB Nagaraj, R Shankar and N Munirathna, who were part of a group that was instrumental in bringing down the previous JDS-Congress government and helping the BJP come to power, have been waiting to be included in the cabinet.

MLC A H Vishwanath, who was recently disqualified from becoming a minister by the Karnataka High Court, has said that he will fight the case before the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, Ramesh Jarkiholi, too, has been putting pressure on the government to include his team in the cabinet.

REMEMBERING BABA SAHEB

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa paid a tribute to Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Yediyurappa will stay in Assembly for 45 minutes; to attend wedding

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa will not stay longer than 45 minutes in the House on the opening day of the week-long legislative session on Monday.

As Yediyurappa is scheduled to attend the wedding of a close family friend at Sagar on Monday, he will arrive in the Assembly at 11 am sharp and rush off to Sagar. The wedding is in the family of his close friend Sripada Hegde Nisrani.

The chief minister's itinerary, released on Sunday, shows that he will leave from the HAL Airport in a private chopper at 11.45 am and arrive at Sagar, near Shivamogga, at 1.15 pm. He will stay at the wedding for a while and leave around 2.15 pm. He will be back in Bengaluru at 3.45 pm.

As Shivamogga has been tense over the last few days over a local incident, special security arrangements have been for the CM's visit in Sagar.

INTERVIEW

'WE WILL STAND WITH ALL FARMERS DURING BHARAT BANDH'

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

AICC General Secretary, Karnataka incharge, Randeep Singh Surjewala was busy on Sunday holding back-to-back meetings with local party leaders ahead of the legislature session on Monday. Between meetings, he spoke to The New Indian Express on the party's strategy for the legislature session, its stand on farmers' protests, KPCC restructuring and the plan for the bypolls and gram panchayat elections.

Farmers here are threatening to hold a protest and take part in the nationwide bandh on Tuesday.

The Congress will stand with farmers of the state and country during Bharat Bandh on December 8. Drunk with power, an arrogant BJP government cannot hear the anguish nor feel the pain of our 'annadata'. The Congress will fight the arrogance of Modi and Yediyurappa, who is bent upon usurping and handing over the land of farmers to capitalists through the Land Reforms Amendment Bill.

The legislature session beginning on Monday. What is the strategy of Congress?

Maladministration and misgovernance appear to be the philosophy of this BJP government. It wants to push through the Land Reforms Bill and other retrograde laws. The Congress, led by Siddaramaiah (Congress Legislature Party leader), will hold this government accountable during the legislature session.

> The Congress, led by Siddaramaiah (Congress Legislature Party leader), will hold this government accountable during the legislature session
>
> Randeep Singh Surjewala

Why does the party have so many factions here? There is Siddaramaiah, D K Shivakumar and old guard factions.

There is only one faction and that is Congress faction. The party is inherently democratic and doesn't curb individual aspirations within the 'Lakshman Rekha' of party's interests and discipline. This is what sets us apart from a dictatorial BJP-RSS model. To end expression and voice and sometimes reasonable dissent is to end democracy. It is unfair to read it as factional politics.

Congress has not been reconstituted in the state for the last 10 years.

The process of reconstituting KPCC has already begun. We are holding extensive consultations with our leaders and workers at all levels. It will be completed soon.

The Congress pulled the alliance down in the Bihar elections. Is the party on the decline?

I think the very presumption is wrong. Bihar is a classic case of a stolen mandate. Two of Congress seats and eight of RJD seats that we had won with narrow margins were taken away by misusing returning officers. The party was called upon by the coalition to fight nearly 30 seats that have not been won in three decades. We also gave up 13 of the 41 seats that we contested last time, including three that had sitting Congress MLAs. We followed the coalition dharma. In hindsight, we should have made our coalition more broad based. But we are confident that over the next few months, the Bihar government will crumble under its own weight.

What are the party's plans for the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections?

Our leaders, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and candidates are determined to reach out and win the elections at the grassroots. We had a healthy discussion and division of responsibilities for panchayat elections on Sunday.

What are the plans for Maski, Basavkalyan and Belagavi bypolls?

We will fight them with full vigour and ensure party's victory.

DIVINE PACKAGE

Get Sabarimala prasad delivered at your doorstep

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

BY ENSURING doorstep delivery of the Sabarimala temple's 'Swami Prasad' through Speed Post, the Postal Department and the Travancore Devaswom Board have ensured that devotees do not miss the sacred offering due to the strict restrictions in place for the Mandalam this year on account of the pandemic. This special delivery service launched across the country on November 6 has found nearly 11,000 takers, including 112 in Karnataka.

K Raveendran, Director of Postal Services, Karnataka Postal Circle, told The New Indian Express, "This is the first time this sort of arrangement has been entered into with the Devaswom Board for the distribution of the Prasad. Devotees are extremely happy that they are able to partake of the offering despite the pandemic."

The delivery will be done by SpeedPost with the prasad coming directly from the temple in Kerala | EXPRESS

Each package contains one packet of Aravana, Aadiya Sishtam Ney (ghee) Vibhoothi, kumkum, turmeric and Archana Prasadam. The cost of a packet is Rs 450 and a person is allowed to book a maximum of ten packets one time.

"The booking needs to be done in person only by cash at any of the nearly 3,000 branch post offices across Karnataka barring very small post offices located in villages. Delivery is done by Speed Post with the Prasad coming directly from the temple in Kerala to those who want it in order to maintain the sanctity of the Prasad," Raveendran added.

Among the satisfied recipients are H K Nagendra, an IT professional who resides near Mysuru Road. "I have been going on my annual Sabarimala pilgrimage for the last 14 years. Due to Covid-19 and the fact that we are having a baby at home, I decided not to go this year. I am really so relieved and satisfied that we are able to get the Prasad at our doorstep. I expected it to be a costly affair when I heard of it but the pricing is almost the same."

K G Prabhakaran, a real estate agent at Sahakarnagar said, "I am really happy I could get the Prasad this year as I had been visiting the temple for the last seven years during the Mandalam season."

It makes good business sense for the Postal department too as it earns Rs 50 out of each parcel booked for the Speed Post delivery.

BJP to leverage its new found might in Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AMONG other issues, the financial crisis in the state, setting up of the Maratha Development Corporation, the squabbling among BJP leaders with statements against their own party MLAs and ministers, and the recent suicide attempt by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's political secretary are expected to give ammunition to the opposition parties.

Meanwhile, the ruling BJP is planning to join hands with JDS in Upper House to unseat Council Chairman K Prathapchandra Shetty. The party has already moved a no-confidence motion against Shetty.

After the recent Council election, the BJP has 31 members in the 75-strong House, the Congress 28, the JDS 14 and one Independent. If the BJP joins hands with the JDS, the grouping will have more number than the Congress. In the last session, the APMC and Land reforms Bills could not be passed in the Council as the BJP did not have the numbers.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami added one more minister, CVe Shanmugam, to the 11-member team deputed to coordinate relief work in the regions affected by Cyclones Burevi and Nivar

Rajini fans irked over party appointments

Those appointed are elites who won't understand our pain and service, find this painful, embarassing, they say

S KUMARESAN @ Chennai

ACTOR **Rajinikanth** fulfilled the dreams his fans nursed for nearly three decades on Thursday by announcing that his political party would be launched in January. But the superstar's appointment of ex-BJP member Ra Arjunamurthy and close confidant Tamilaruvi Manian as the proposed party's chief coordinator and supervisor respectively has disappointed supporters and members of his Rajini Makkal Mandram (RMM). The RMM was formed from the actor's fan clubs after he announced his interest in electoral politics in 2017.

"At the meeting of RMM district secretaries last Monday, we urged our leader to start the political party immediately. We promised to stand by him regardless of his decision, after he explained his limitations due to his health. So fans were jubilant when he announced the launch but none of us are happy about the appointment of senior leaders without consulting RMM functionaries," said an RMM member.

Most RMM functionaries have over three decades of experience with the fan clubs, he pointed out. "The physical and economic sacrifices we made to maintain the fan clubs can only be understood by those who have tracked our work closely. Those who have been appointed are 'elites' who won't understand our pain and service," the member lamented, adding that after four decades of work in the fan clubs he would now have to introduce himself to Arjunamurthy. "Many of us find this painful and embarrassing," he said.

Another district functionary pointed out that the RMM had several wings and at least 1,000 district-level functionaries. "RMM is the base for the political party. We are going to execute the campaign and other election work, including poll booth duty. But, our leader thinks none of us has the capacity to be appointed even as a subordinate to Tamilaruvi Manian or Arjunamurthy. How can we order those below us to work for unknown persons?" the functionary asked.

RMM members said their disappointment could be gauged by merely looking at social media reactions to Rajini's announcement.

(From L to R) Forest watcher Lokesh, veterinarian Dr Satish and Melkote RFO Subramanya attend to an ailing spot billed pelican in Kokkrebellur

Spot-billed pelicans to be geo-tagged in K'taka

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

OVER the last few years, many spot-billed pelicans that have been visiting Kokkrebellur Bird Conservation Reserve, have been dying mysteriously. Now to know the exact cause, researchers from Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Karnataka Forest Department have partnered to geo-tag them.

The community reserve, just 70 km from Bengaluru, is a popular destination not just for bird watchers but even tourists to see the pelicans roost and breed at close proximity. The village comes alive during winters (October- February) when the pelicans come here, build nests, lay eggs, feed the newborns and then fly away with their young ones.

While many other species of pelicans like the dalmatian and grey white have been geo-tagged, it will be the first time in India that the spot-billed pelicans will get the tag.

"Since 2018 many birds have been dying mysteriously. Preliminary reports during postmortem have shown roundworms in their stomach. But it cannot be concluded as the cause of death as they are found in all human beings and need hosts to reproduce. So to better understand the cause of death, some of the birds will be geo-tagged," Aksheeta Mahapatra, WII biologist, told *The New Indian Express*.

Tagging them will also give information about where they come from, where they go and what is their life cycle. "It has been observed that the birds come to Kokkrebellur and within a few days, they die. They do not even go to hunt for food. They are seen resting in the nest and then they drop down. So along with the exact cause, their life pattern will also be known," she added.

The solar-based geo-tags are being imported from Germany and they will have a life of at least eight years. These tags will be inserted in the wings of the birds and their readings can be monitored from the nearest mobile towers also.

Aksheeta who has been studying the birds in Kokkrebellur since the last three years observed that the number of pelicans visiting the reserve has reduced over the years. She said that unlike other pelicans, the spot-billed come from various parts of the Indian sub-continent and most deaths occur in November and December. So there is also a possibility that the places where they feed on are contaminated, she said.

In 2018 and 2019, 400 pelicans died (each year) and in 2020 so far 250 deaths have been reported. A team of veterinarians and surgeons are on the spot treating the birds which fall from their nest, to reduce the number of casualties, before the exercise of tagging them begins.

Sasi may not be eligible for early prison release

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai/Bengaluru

COUNSEL for VK Sasikala, close aide of former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, said on Sunday that the prison officials are yet to respond to the remission plea, seeking her early release, even as sources in the Karnataka Prison Department maintained that she is not eligible to avail that provision.

"As per the guidelines, convicts in cases that are investigated by the CBI or NIA are not eligible for a premature release. Also, the case in which she was involved in, was a disproportionate assets case, and there is no provision for an early release in corruption cases as well," said an official from the prison department. But there has not been any official rejection of the remission plea yet.

However, Sasikala's lawyer, Raja Sendoor Pandian, told *TNIE*, "It was me, on behalf of her, that submitted a petition for her early release citing the 129-days remission period. I expect the jail authorities to respond within a week."

Biker in hosp after tusker charges at him

CONTNUED FROM PAGE 1

"TO confirm that it is a leopard, a team will be deployed for night patrolling after which a cage with bait will be placed to capture the carnivore," the official added.

Forest officials point out that leopards wander for over 20 km during nights. The nearest forest to the location is Turahalli state forest, which is 10 km away and is home to leopards. "Besides Veerabhadra Nagar, we discovered an approximated 10-acre forest-like space, a conducive habitat for leopards to hide. This is also their mating season and leopards are on the prowl. Normally, leopards target and pick only one prey for food. The bite marks and death of animals could also be by a stray dog. So, for the sake of their own safety, citizens should not venture out post sunset," the official explained.

Meanwhile, a 30-year-old biker fell off his vehicle and was injured on Ragihalli Road near BNP late on Saturday night, after a brush with a tusker. He is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Jayanagar.

A forest official said, "The tusker was wandering on the road when the biker noticed it. As the animal tried to charge, the biker fell off the vehicle and fractured his leg. This is the first incident this year. To ensure there are no more of such incidents, we are in talks with all stakeholders. We do not want to ban night traffic, even though it is permitted on the roads cutting through national parks. We are asking people not to venture out alone, but move in groups, even in vehicles.

"Since BNP is a fragmented habitat, safety of citizens and animals is crucial. There is resistance from locals. A team of forest officials will be posted at the entry points and groups of people will be escorted. This is the plan for now. A final decision will be taken after a detailed discussion. Until then, citizens are advised caution," the officer added.

Wooden barricades were installed around the Stone Chariot near the Vijay Vittala temple in Hampi | SHIVASHANKAR BANAGAR

BARRICADES AROUND HAMPI MONUMENTS TO STOP VANDALS

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

THE Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has placed wooden barricades around the famous stone chariot at Vijaya Vittala Temple Complex in Hampi for protection. There have been several instances where tourists got too close to these monuments, with some going as far as touching them. To avoid the monument from getting damaged, the ASI placed the barricades around the heritage structure that was built in the 16th century.

Besides the Stone Chariot, several other monuments in Hampi, including Ugra Narasimha and Saasive Kalu Ganesha, will be cordoned off in the next phase. In the past two years, Hampi has witnessed several incidents of vandalism, according to officials here. Officials from the ASI, Hampi circle, said that there were several complaints regarding unruly tourists getting too close to protected monuments.

"Many times, tourists quarrel with security personnel over taking photographs by sitting or leaning on heritage structures. The idea is to minimise human intervention and preserve these structures for the future," the official said.

The official added that those who cross the barricades will be fined as per the rules. "The Central ASI had cleared the project to barricade important monuments in Hampi about six months ago. But due to the lockdown the work began only recently," the official added.

Local guides and photographers have welcomed the move. "Though the barricades obstruct the view of monuments it's a necessary step. Tourists do not listen to the guards and get close to the monuments. The barricades will keep the important monuments safe" said a local photographer.

Rape accused booked under POCSO Act

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE ward boy Manoj told the girl that he would help her find a hotel. When she went along with Manoj, his friends were already in the car. They forced the girl into the vehicle and gang-raped her, police said.

Later, the girl returned to the hospital and informed her mother following which a complaint was lodged at the women's police station. The police registered a case under the POCSO Act and arrested Manoj. They are on the lookout for the three others.

In another incident, a 50-year-old man allegedly raped a nine-year-old girl, who is his neighbour, in Tunga Nagar police limits on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Manjappa. The girl's mother lodged a complaint at the women's police station and the police arrested the accused and registered a case under POCSO Act.

Superintendent of Police K M Shantharaju told *TNIE* that the main accused in both the cases have been arrested. "Manoj's accomplices too will be arrested soon," he added.

CRIME PATROL

Financier held for running business illegally

Bengaluru: CCB sleuths arrested a financier for allegedly charging exorbitant interest rates on loans and harassing people. Police have recovered Rs 22 lakh in cash and other documents from the accused. The accused Nagaraj Shetty, is a resident of Vyalikaval. Police said they had received complaints that Shetty was running a finance business illegally and was giving loans at exorbitant interest rates. Based on the complaints, police raided his house on Saturday and arrested him. "It was found that he had not obtained any permission from the authorities concerned to run a finance business," police said. **ENS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHOBHA T.K., W/o. Kamaraja H.B., aged about 36 years, Resident at # 10/1, Kempapura Main Road, Maruthi Nagar, Pipeline, Opp. Yashas Vidhya Kendra, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore - 560 090.

I have lost the Original Absolute sale deed property bearing Site No.181, Khata No. 30, Assessment bearing old No. 78/15, New No. 78/5, situated at Doddabidarakallu Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North, measuring East to West : 30 feet, North to South : 40 feet, totally 1200 sq.ft., (1) Registered Sale Deed Document No. BLN-1-56855/2006-07, CD No. BLND369, dated 01-12-2006. (2) Registered Sale Deed Document No. PNY-1-04075/2013-14, CD No. PNYD563, dated: 07-08-2013.

In this regard I registered online complaint at Crime Branch Bangalore City Police Station of Lost of above said original absolute sale deed Lost Report No.126685/2020, Serial No. 874766, Dated: 08-10-2020.

If anybody find the above said documents please hand over to the above said address or Contact : 9353222454

DOCUMENT LOST

My client **Mr. Mohammed Ghousuddin** S/o late Mohammed Ibrahim, is the owner of the below mentioned property and he is residing at No. 3197, Old Post Office Road, Nelamangala Town, Bangalore Rural District, here by informed to the GENERAL PUBLIC that I was lost the original Release Deed dated 24-09-1976 executed by Mohammed Ghousuddin @ Akbar Saheb in favour of Mohammed Ibrahim @ Affise Saheb, vide Document. No. 1058/1976/77, in Book-1, Volume 1336, at Pages 28 to 30 of the Sub-Registrar, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural District in respect of the below mentioned shoppremises bearing Municipal No.713/601/1, (Khaneshmari No.713/601/1), **situated at Pete Beedi, Nelamangala Town, Bangalore Rural District,** measuring East to West 9 feet and North to South 22 feet, totally measuring 198 Square feet and boundaries **East by :** Shop belongs to Lakshminarayanasheety son of Narashimasheety, **West by :** Shop belongs to Ghohath Taj, **North by :** Shop belongs to N.A. Subbaiahsheety and **South by :** Pete Beedi. In this regard my client has lodged a complaint before the Bangalore City Police on 02-12-2020. If anybody finds the above said document or is in possession, please hand over the same to the mentioned addresses.

M.D. KUMAR, Advocate,
No.197, Kenchamba Lodge,
S.C. Road Cross, Gandhinagar,
Bangalore - 560 009, Mob: 94487 03277

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BENGALURU
Jeevan Mangal Building, No.4,
Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025.
O.A.NO.1233/2019

BETWEEN
Bank of India, Bangalore Main Branch, No.11, K.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560 009 ... **Applicant**

AND
M/s Turquoise & others ...**Defendants**

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT NOs.2 to 4 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
1. Mrs.Dimple Verma,
W/o Sri Rajeev Gopalakrishnan, Residing at The Gallop Base, Avalahalli Estate, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064.
2. Mrs. Samara Mahindra, D/o Sri Suresh Mahindra, Residing at The Gallop Base, Avalahalli Estate, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064.
3. Mrs. Natasha Mahindra, D/o. Sri Suresh Mahindra, Residing at The Gallop Base, Avalahalli Estate, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064.

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.17,61,60,266.45 (Rupees Seventeen Crores Sixty One Lakhs Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six and Paise Forty five Only)** amount together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defense to show cause **on 11/02/2021 at 11.00 A.M.** as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **04th day of November 2020.**

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Asst. Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BENGALURU
Jeevan Mangal Building, No.4,
Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025.
O.A.NO.1243/2019

BETWEEN
Bank of India, Peenya Industrial Estate Branch, MCB, Phase IV, Peenya, Bangalore - 560058. ... **Applicant**

AND
M/s Rediff Precision Tool (India) & others ... **Defendants**

SUMMON ISSUED TO DEFENDANT NOs.1 & 2 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
1. M/s Rediff Precision Tools (India)
Represented by its Partners
Office at No.23, Soundarya Building, Vidya manyanagar, Andrahalli, Bangalore-560 091.
2. Sri Sadananda Babu, S/o Veerabhadraiah M, Aged about 45 years, R/a No.183, 5th Cross, Chikkabasavanapura, Virgonagar Post, K.R.Puram, Bangaluru - 560 049.

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.34,41,393.00 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Forty One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Three Only)** amount together with current and future interest cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defense to show cause **on 20/04/2021 at 11.00 A.M.** as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **24th day of November 2020.**

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Triburnl-1, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **MRS. GOWHER ABBAS,** wife of late Muhammad Abbas Aly, aged about 85 years, presently staying at No. 131 HAL III Stage, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560 075 state as follows:

It appears that I had executed a **GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY DATED DECEMBER 12, 2019,** registered as Document No. INR-4-00734-2019-20, Book-IV, stored in CD No. INRD480 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar in favour of my son **MR. ASIF ALY ABBAS,** constituting him as my attorney to do certain acts, deeds and things, therein specified for sale of all my moveable and immoveable properties including the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

The public are hereby informed that I have absolutely and unconditionally **REVOKED** the powers granted under the aforesaid GPA in favour of Asif Aly Abbas under a Deed of Revocation and Cancellation dated December 01, 2020, registered as Document No. INR-4-00696-2020-21, Book-IV, stored in CD No. INRD708 in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar.

The public are hereby cautioned that Asif Aly Abbas or any other person claiming by, under or through him, has no right to sell and/or transfer and/or to dispose of the Schedule Property or any other moveable or immoveable property in any manner claiming to act pursuant to the aforesaid GPA. The public are further cautioned that any act, commission or omission by the said Asif Aly Abbas claiming to act under the aforesaid GPA is null, void and *non-est* in the eyes of law and as such, shall not be binding on me.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential Flat bearing No. 6-B, on the second floor of residential complex known as Qutub Apartments, in Old No. 8, New No. 19, Sixth Street, Gopalpuram, Madras-600 086, consisting of super built-up area of 1305 sq. ft together with corresponding undivided 1/6th share of land respectively therefor in and out of the total land area measuring about 2 grounds and 356 sq. ft. (that bears all the blocks of Qutub Apartments) situated at Mylapore village, comprised in R.S. No.: 1238 and R.S. No. 1238/10, Block No. 26, of Mylapore Triplicane Taluk, Chennai District, within the Registration District of Central Madras and Sub-District of Joint-I, R.O. Central Madras, and bounded on the:

East by : R.S. No. 1238/6;
West by : J.J. Road (R.S.No.1238/1,1237/3, 1237/4 & 5;
North by : Gopalpuram Sixth Street (J.J. Road R.S. No. 1249);
South by : R.S. Nos. 1237/5 and 1238/8.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 07.12.2020 **(MRS. GOWHER ABBAS)**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Brabourne Road Branch, 2, Brabourne Road, Govind Bhavan, Kolkata-700001

POSSESSION NOTICE [See Rule 13(4)] (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank,** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 05.02.2020** calling upon the **Borrower:** M/s Sical Logistics Ltd., to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.70,17,80,555/-** (Rupees Seventy Crores Seventeen Lakhs Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Five only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Said Rule on this **05.12.2020.**

The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Canara Bank, Brabourne Road Branch** for an amount of **Rs.78,52,39,528.93** as on **03.12.2020** and intereset thereon.

Description of the Immovable Property:- Property No.1: All that is part and parcel of land and building situated at, Office Unit No.5 & 6, 3651 Sq.Ft RNM House, No.3B, Lal Bazaar Street, P.S.-Lal Bazaar, Kolkata-700001, West Bengal. (As per vr dated 24.11.2017 of M/S Colliers international (India) Property Services Pvt Ltd and LSR dated 04.12.2017).

Property No.2: All that is part and parcel of land and building situated at, Flat No.8, 3rd Floor, "Bharat Bhawan" Premises No.5, Tara Road, P.S-Tollygunge, Kolkata-700026, West Bengal. (As per VR Dated 24.11.2017 of M/s Colliers International (India) Property Services Pvt Ltd and LSR dated 04.12.2017). Bounded: North: By Common Passage Flat No.7, South: By House of Prathima Gangully, East: By House of Prathima Gangully, West by: Premisis No.4, Tara Road.

Date : 05.12.2020 **Sd/-Authorized Officer**
Place : Kolkata **Canara Bank**

APPEAL TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGARDING LOSS OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

From: Bengaluru, Date: 05/12/2020

I KS Ram Prasad, S/o KR Srinivasa Murthy, Aged about 42 years, R/at No. 13, Vasista, Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru- 560 061.

1) I am the absolute owner of a) Property bearing Sy no. 11/1, Measuring 5 acres 7.08 guntas situated at Husugavalli Village, Belagodu Hobli, Sakaleshapura Taluk, Hassan District. b) and also the owner of property bearing Sy No. 11/2, Measuring 3 acres 7.08 guntas situated at Hasugavalli Village, Belagodu Hobli, Sakaleshapura Taluk, Hassan District.

2) I state that recently when I took all the original documents pertaining to the above said properties to the Xerox shop near to my home for obtaining the photo copies of documents, the following Sale Deeds were misplaced/Lost.

a) Sale deed dated 02/08/1976 executed by Sri Krishna Shetty in favour of Mrs. Jalajakshi, registered as doc No. 739/1976-77, in the office of Sub Registrar, Sakaleshapura.

b) Sale dedd dated 02/08/1976 executed by Sri Ranga Shetty in favour of Sri Maharudrappa registered as doc No. 1507/1977-78, in the office of Suib Registrar, Sakaleshapura.

c) Sale dedd dated 24/10/1977 executed by Sri Krishna Setty and others in favour of Smt Jalajakshi, registered as doc No. 1508/1977-78, in the office of Sub Registrar, Sakaleshapura Taluk, Hassan District.

Inspite of my best efforts, I could not trace the said original documents and hence I am issuing this Public Notice.

I requiest the general PUblic to return the said orginal documents, if found to the address mentioned below.

Address for communication
KS Ram Prasad, S/o KR Srinivasa Murthy,
Aged about 42 years, R/at No. 13, Vasista,
Arehalli Vaillage, Uttarhalli Hobli,
Bengaluru- 560 061. Mob: 9341626769.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
Head Office: 'Lokmangal', 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune 411005. Gandhinagar Branch, No-3, Thimmaiah Towers, Bengaluru-560009. Tel: 080-22264997
Email- bom428@mahabanak.co.in, brmgr428@mahabaank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

As per Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No 54 of 2002). Whereas the Authorised Officer after statutory notice period took symbolic possession of the properties described below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8. The borrowers and guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property/ies and any dealings with the same will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra, Gandhinagar Branch for the amount shown hereunder with interest, costs, charges, expenses etc. till the realization of the amount.

Name of Borrower and guarantor: (1)Shri Sanjay Yadav, No. 28,5th Main, 7th Cross, Akshaya nagar, Yelanahalli, Bengaluru-560068. **(2) Mrs. S Reena, W/o. Sri Sanjay Yadav,** No. 28,5th Main, 7th Cross, Akshaya nagar, Yelanahalli, Bengaluru-560068.

Description of secured asset

Yelanahalli that piece Village and parcel of immovable converted land property bearing No 1, formed in Sy No. 23/2 of Begur Hobli Bengaluru - 46+46.5/2 ft and North 560 068 Bengaluru south Taluk, measuring East to West to South - 41+40.5/2 ft totally admeasuring 1885 Sq ft and **bounded as: On or towards East:** Road, **On or towards West:** Plot No. 2, **On or towards North:** Private Property, **On or towards South:** Road.

Present dues: Facility I Rs.3939674.25 and **Facility II Rs.799455.00** and interest @ contractual rate wef from **01/12/2020.**

Date of Demand Notice and amount: 29.04.2020 Rs.46,21,645/- and interest wef 29/04/2020 **symbolic possession taken on: 01.12.2020**

Date: 05.12.2020 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Gandhinagar, Bangalore **Bank of Maharashtra**

EDITORIAL

If we stop thinking of the poor as victims, or as a burden, and start recognising them as resilient and creative entrepreneurs and value-conscious consumers, a whole world of opportunity will open up

CK Prahalad

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

WITH DIGITAL BANKING NOW A WAY OF LIFE, BE PREPARED FOR THREATS

Last week, the RBI was forced to ask one of India's top privately owned lenders—the HDFC Bank—to temporarily stop all launches of new digital businesses and sourcing of new credit cards after the bank suffered a data outage that disrupted its net banking and debit card payment systems. HDFC's customers were not the only ones who suffered on account of technical glitches. The country's largest bank, the State Bank of India, too suffered a meltdown of its mobile banking operation soon after the RBI ruling.

A data outage by a major bank now becomes not only a headache for the bank concerned but for the tens of millions of customers who depend on digital banking to do their business. It can result in losses of billions of rupees on account of foregone or delayed financial transactions. The use of mobile banking and contactless payments have surged since the pandemic broke out. According to a survey done by US-based financial technology firm FIS, some 68% of Indian consumers now use online or mobile banking to conduct financial transactions. The safety of banking software and digitised banking and their ability to function have now become as important for the economic life of the nation as its currency system, since digital money is fast becoming the new currency. While the data outage at HDFC and SBI were in all likelihood because of a system overload or other software glitches, a cyberattack that causes Indian banking software to collapse will be a new threat the country's security planners will have to factor in for the future.

Just as in the case of a stock market or major power grid collapse, a digital banking failure could be cause for great panic in the future. It could also be an opportunity for criminal groups to break in and manipulate data. Under the circumstances, it becomes the bounden duty of banks to constantly upgrade and monitor the functioning of their financial technology to protect themselves and customers. At the same time, it also becomes the RBI's overarching duty to have a hawk's eye trained on them and swiftly pull up and punish laggard banks whose laxness could compromise the nation's digitised financial architecture.

CRICKET FACES CONCUSSION HEADACHE

Amid Covid-19 and bio-bubbles, concussion became a talking point in cricket recently. The Indian team's decision to replace Ravindra Jadeja with Yuzvendra Chahal in the first T20I against Australia sparked the debate. Jadeja had carried on batting for four balls after being struck on the helmet in the last over of the innings. He was troubled by a hamstring problem too, which suggested it would be difficult for him to bowl. However, medical opinion of him suffering a mild concussion due to the impact of that hit meant the 'concussion substitute' rule came into play. Chahal played a match-winning role with the ball. Jadeja was subsequently ruled out of the T20 series following medical advice that he be under observation.

Opinion is divided, with one side convinced that the impact of that knock was not as severe as it was made out to be and that Jadeja was replaced because India would have been a bowler short due to his hamstring problem. They say this is opportunistic use of the 'concussion substitute' rule introduced last year. Had Jadeja indeed been concussed, how did he hit nine runs off the last three balls? While some of these are valid questions, it is also abundantly clear that everything happened in accordance with the rule book. The Indian team was perfectly within its rights to make this move. It is a different matter altogether that they benefited from the substitution on the given day.

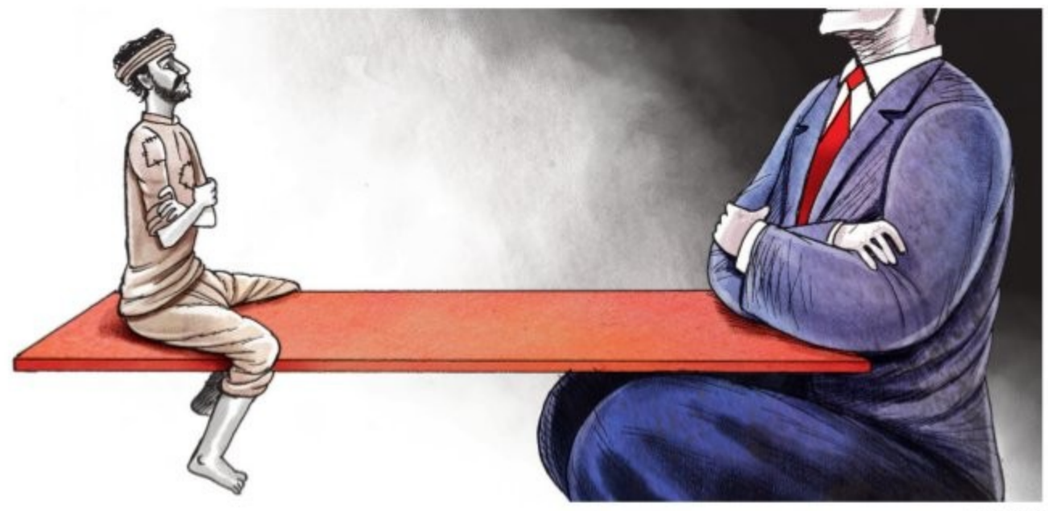
Leaving the arguments aside, what this does is it opens the door for newer interpretations of this rule. This was legalised keeping in mind the seriousness of head injuries and to allow teams to field 11 players in the eventuality of someone getting hurt. No one can accuse India of foul play, but everybody realises now that this rule has a loophole that can be exploited strategically, if certain incidents coincide. Theoretically, it is possible to misuse it. And this is a possibility one has to live with. Always a game with room for debates, cricket has added another to the list. It will not be a surprise if this happens again.

If one is to examine the current state of most democracies, there is an acute economic divide. There is a need to get a little more aggressive to solve this

ECONOMIC INEQUITY: IT'S ROBINHOOD TIME

HARISH BIJOOR

Brand Guru & Founder, Harish Bijoor Consults



AMIT BANDRE

All democracies start with good intentions. In the beginning, as a nation decides to adopt the most popular political format of them all, the democratic form is seen to be a good one. The most benign and politically correct one to pick as well. And it gets picked by many. The fact that we today have 98 democracies in the world, which represent 60% of the total kitty of nations, says it all. More than half the population of the world lives in a democracy (China of course skews a big chunk away in this numbers game).

The democratic form of governance seems to be the most robust. Democracy is a thought in action then, one that is assiduously protected by everyone within the country, with clear divisions of the legislature, executive and judiciary that help govern and maintain the semblance of law, order and equity. And in this assiduous maintenance of the spirit of the democratic form of governance, nations face challenges as they grow older and bigger. The water of capitalism, which is typically the brute driving force of economies that run in the democratic mode, has a way of finding its own level.

As the gush of capitalism finds its own level, there is a tendency for economies to get divided into clear ghettos of those who have and those who don't. Economies that possibly started out as very poor ones (India included), over a clear time frame of decades, rise from the bathos of poverty and correct the basic inequities the nation suffered from. Capitalism and its many avatars are clear friends out here. If one is to measure the success of a democracy, there is a clear start-point metric that can visibly be compared to a contemporary point of relative overall success. Countries that boast of a steady and frenetic pace of GDP growth year on year are classic examples that showcase the joy of a democracy.

Many of us are really happy with the way this is. We see what we see and refuse to look for what we don't. Many of us who ask these questions vocally and celebrate the success of the GDP metric are really prime beneficiaries of what the governance module has contributed to date. Much of this contribution is to the account of those who have emerged to be "those who have". And those who have, have plenty.

The other constituency out there in a democracy is really that portion of the nation that is quite deprived and has variably been labelled as the "have-nots", the poor and underprivileged. This portion of the nation is really the silent majority more often than not. A silent majority that speaks normally once in five years at election time, with a vote. And well nigh nearly 30% of a nation by and large does not even vote. And there rests the silence of the lambs, in peace.

If one is to examine the current state of most democracies, there is an acute divide. This divide is economic. It separates those who have and those who don't. The government is of course not to be blamed. Every government worth its vote actually strives hard to erase the gap between the haves and have-nots. No government is really able to erase inequality for sure though.

The effort of every government in every democracy is therefore to create equity that is political, social, religious and economic. While most governments succeed on the first three counts, the last is seldom reached. Nations therefore remain divided into small islands of those who have and large continents of those who don't. The work of every successive government remains predictably the same, the key goal being to establish some semblance of equity in economic terms. But in many ways, most governments write self-fulfilling prophecies of failure on this count, term after term.

Why should someone in Begusarai, who earns ₹100 per day for a family of five, pay the same price for a product as the CEO of a software firm in Bengaluru?

As democracies across the world grapple to work in the space of economic-equity correction, I really do believe there is a need to get a little more aggressive with this goal. Isn't it time for India, as the largest of all democracies, to experiment aggressively with a model that talks of rebalancing the economic inequity that persists, decade after decade?

What, then, are the ideas? Let me float two.

I believe totally in a model that speaks of acute capitalism at one end and acute socialism at another. Those who have all the money in their hands must be able to enjoy what it can buy. In and with exclusivity. And those who don't must not be deprived of the best as well. At least not when it comes to basics such as food, health and education.

A classic example in action is possibly the Delhi Education Model of Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. The richest of the rich have their best of best schools where the fee is ₹9 lakh per annum and more with top teachers and great facilities. And that's the school for those who are in the blessed realm of acute capitalism. And for those who are at the other end of the spectrum, there are the Delhi government schools, which are possibly not less efficient in the goals of learning and teaching that schools are meant to specialise in.

And secondly, is it also time for a model of basic product pricing that has "Robinhoodisation" as its theme? Think. Why should Keku Sharma in Begusarai, who earns ₹100 per day for a family of five, pay the same price for a kg of rice that Keku Sharma the CEO of a SaaS (Software as a Service) outfit in Bengaluru pays? Robinhoodisation in pricing out here will mean that a kg of rice will cost Keku of Begusarai ₹2 per kg and Keku of Bengaluru ₹200! All based on a socio-economic classification code embedded in their respective Aadhaar cards.

A kg of rice will therefore not have a standard MRP. It will vary based on the weight or the lightness of your Aadhaar card. Radical, yes! Unpalatable to many, yes! But isn't it time we got radical?

(harishbijoor@hotmail.com)

PROXY WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND ISRAEL HEATS UP

PINAK RANJAN CHAKRAVARTY

Former Ambassador, Ex-Secretary in MEA & currently a Visiting Fellow at ORF, Delhi

The recent assassination of Iran's top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, has ignited another round in the proxy war between the two countries that have been sworn enemies ever since the Mullahs took over power in Tehran after the 1979 Iranian revolution. Predictably, the Iranian leadership has pointed the finger of suspicion at Israel for the assassination that took place 65 km outside the Iranian capital, when a motorcade ferrying the nuclear scientist on a highway was first blasted by a car bomb and then came under direct gunfire by car- and motorcycle-borne assassins. There can be little doubt that the brazen attack was meticulously planned. The attackers are yet to be identified. The Iranian dissident organisation Mujahedin-e-Khalq has cropped up as a possible perpetrator that mounted this assassination.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu had publicly named the Iranian scientist in a presentation on Iran's nuclear programme in April 2018. Israel believes he is the mastermind behind Iran's nuclear weapons programme. Recent reports indicate that US President Trump had been advised not to attack Iran's nuclear facilities as this would trigger a wider conflagration in West Asia. Any US attack will also complicate matters for the incoming Biden administration. Israel has strenuously opposed Iran's nuclear programme and put in place plans to stop Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons by any means. This assassination is another milestone in Israel's plan. This is not the first time that Iranian nuclear scientists have been assassinated. Between 2010 and 2012, four scientists were killed; while no one claimed responsibility, fingers were pointed at Israel. The most audacious attack was in 2018, when armed men broke into a vault in a warehouse in Iran and carted away reams of documents on Iran's nuclear programme.

Iranian leaders have vowed to take revenge and continue with the nuclear programme that has been in the crosshairs of Israel and the US ever since it began. Israeli officials have denied any involvement, as per the standard operating procedure. In an already volatile West Asia, this killing, coming after the assassination in Baghdad in January this year by America of Gen. Qasem Soleimani, the Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), raises tensions once again with unforeseen consequences.

The EU and some other countries have called the assassination a criminal act and called for restraint. Sections of the US media have quoted a former CIA director as having said that Israel was behind the assassination, which he has called highly reckless and a criminal act. This could be another standard operation procedure, in which former senior US intelligence officials point a finger at Israel but the latter denies all knowledge. Intriguingly, the assassination came days after PM Netanyahu's secret trip to Saudi Arabia, where he reportedly met Muhammad bin Salman, the Saudi Crown Prince, and Mike Pompeo, the US Secretary of State.

Both Israel and the US have been monitoring Iran's nuclear programme after the Trump administration abandoned the nuclear deal, the JCPOA, in 2018. Iran has since raised production of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU), a vital ingredient in nuclear power generation and nuclear weapons, much above the limit prescribed by the JCPOA. Iran has always maintained that as a signatory to the NPT, its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful and its leadership has affirmed that Iran shall never produce such weapons. The problem is no one believes Iran. Israel had staunchly opposed the JCPOA which, according to it, had merely postponed Iran's march towards nuclear weapons capability. Israel has no interest in the revival of the JCPOA and this assassination can be seen as creating hurdles for the new Biden administration to rejoin the agreement.

Israel has no interest in the revival of the nuclear pact with Iran as it believes this merely postpones Tehran's march towards N-weapons capability. The recent assassination can be seen as creating hurdles for the new Biden administration to rejoin the agreement

Over the years, tit-for-tat attacks by Iran and Israel have continued. Iran launched attacks on Israeli targets, including a diplomat's wife, in New Delhi in 2012; Iranian agents botched up an attack in Bangkok and a potential strike was thwarted in Tbilisi. For decades, Iran has armed the Hezbollah in Lebanon and Palestinian organisations Islamic Jihad and Hamas to attack Israel, though the motivation for these outfits is their fight against Israel for the Palestinian cause. Currently, an Iranian diplomat is on trial in Brussels for his complicity in planting a bomb in Paris to target anti-Iran demonstrators.

Iran may have vowed retaliation as part of its rhetorical posturing to satisfy domestic public opinion. But by retaliating, it risks scuttling a deal with the Biden administration and extricating the nation from the crippling sanctions that have debilitated its economy. The hardline sections of the Iranian media are calling for an attack on Haifa, the port city in north Israel on the Mediterranean coast. Pragmatists in Iran would be calling for restraint, as Tehran wrestles with the dilemma of retaliation at a time when Biden is on the cusp of taking over from Trump. Iran must be hoping that the new administration will live up to its declared campaign promise of reviving the JCPOA. Biden has already indicated his policy on the pact, by naming Antony Blinken, a strong supporter of the JCPOA, as the incoming US Secretary of State.

Iran has to deal with domestic public opinion that is questioning its leadership about the hollowness of its superior intelligence capabilities. But it is unlikely to retaliate in a knee-jerk mode and has already declared that it will not fall into any such trap. It has vowed to increase activity on its nuclear programme that has reached a stage where it is not dependent on one scientist.

While India has not reacted to the assassination, Trump's trashing of the JCPOA reduced India's space for manoeuvre in view of US sanctions. India was forced to reduce oil imports to zero from one of its leading suppliers. Financial sanctions also deterred many companies from dealing with Iran. Hence, India would prefer removal of sanctions on oil imports and other financial curbs. Sanctions on Iran are directly linked to the rejuvenation of the JCPOA with American participation. Iran-US negotiations on this issue, when it happens, will be long-drawn, complex and difficult, because it will hinge on how far back Iran would be willing to roll back its nuclear programme.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Naming campuses

Naming the second campus of the Thiruvananthapuram-based Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology after M S Golwalkar has triggered a controversy. Why was the first campus named after Rajiv? Having said that, the absence of concern for historical background and local opinion in naming various public sector institutions needs a review.

P R V Raja, Pandalam

Farmer unrest: Be careful

Though the majority of protesters are genuine, there is a danger of Khalistanis and ISI sympathisers taking over the unrest. The Centre should tread carefully.

C Vijaya Kumar, Bengaluru

Symbols of unity in India

This is with reference to the article *Fatima learned Sanskrit, Lizi Arabic* (Dec 6). As the author has rightly pointed out, there are many symbols of unity that bind India together. So let us not impose any religion on anyone.

E Ravi Varma Raja, Ennakkad

Languages & religions

The article is enlightening. A language should not be ascribed to a particular religion. Arabic is not the monopoly of Muslims and Sanskrit that of Hindus. Moreover, anybody should have the freedom to choose the religion of his/her choice.

Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Article hilarious

The article *Rajinikanth, just for roars and laughs* (Dec 6) rivalled P G Wodehouse's works for its humour. It also pointed out the truth. Despite some adulation, the conclusion that "the actor is unlikely to be a kingmaker let alone become the king himself" was an anti-climax.

L Kamalaksh Rao, email

Premature to belittle him

It is premature to belittle Rajinikanth's electoral prospects. After the exits of Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi, Tamil Nadu might lack a political titan. Remember that when N T Rama Rao entered politics, some called him a glowworm.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

The plight of savers

Banks have raced with one another to cut interest rates on savings instruments (*Interest rates: What about savers?* Dec 6). For a long time, many including the media celebrated every 0.25% drop in RBI's rates, though banks did not pass this on. But nobody talked about the plight of savers, be it the measly sum in a savings account or the deposit, earning a monthly interest purely for survival.

G Sundar, Coimbatore

Protect small depositors

The government, while trying to keep lending rates low, should also protect small depositors against rising inflation.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Welcome vaccine shot

West Bengal minister Firhad Hakim volunteered to get a shot of a Covid-19 vaccine. After taking the injection, he said that he was lucky to be part of the trial. Such actions of leaders will instil confidence in others.

P P Sahadevan, Nileshwar

Towards casteless society

The Maharashtra government's decision to drop caste indicators from the names of colonies and residential settlements deserves to be applauded. Though not a giant leap, it is one welcome step towards a casteless society.

A Raveendranath, Aranmula

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done the work of developing places associated with Babasaheb and linking the future generation with his philosophy

Kailash Vijayvargiya @KailashOnline
Trinamool Congress govt is opposing Centre's farm laws despite enacting similar legislation in West Bengal

Sukhbir Singh Badal @officeofssbadal
It was unfortunate that the Centre was dragging its feet in taking a decision on the demands of the farmer organizations

BKU spokesperson Rakesh Tikait jumps over a divider to cross NH-9 Delhi Meerut expressway at UP-Ghazipur border on Sunday; Arjuna and Dronacharya awardees arrive at protest site; Farmers prepare food at Singhu border | PARVEEN NEGI & SHEKHAR YADAV

Farmers' protest packs a punch as Vijender jumps into the ring

Pressure also builds up on the Manohar Lal Khattar government in Haryana as two legislators of JJP, one of its alies, come out in solidarity of agitating farmers

Cong MPs to protest for Parl session

Congress MPs from Punjab will be holding protest at Jantar Mantar on Monday to demand a winter session of Parliament to discuss farmers issue. Anandpur Sahib MP Manish Tewari said, "It will be first time since 1952 that winter session will not be held at time when farmers are protesting and China has occupied territory." Apart from Tewari, the other Congress MPs are Ravneet Singh Bittu, Preneet Kaur, Mohammed Sadique, Santokh Singh Chaudhry, Amar Singh, Gurjeet Singh Aujla and Jasbir Singh Gill.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

LENDING his support to the protesting farmers, Olympian boxer Vijender Singh has now threatened to return the 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna' award, the country's highest sporting honour, if the Central government does not withdraw the three farm laws.

Addressing the protesting farmers' near Singhu border, Vijender Singh said if the government does not take back the 'black laws', he would request them to take back the 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna' award conferred on him earlier.

"I come from a family of farmers and Army men, I can understand their pain and anxiety. It is high time that government pays heed to their demands," added the celebrated boxer, whose brother has served in the Army.

The 35-year-old trailblazing boxer joins the list of several former players, including Padma Shri and Arjuna awardees who have said they would return their awards in support of the farmers' agitation against the Centre's three farm laws.

"The award definitely means a lot to me but we also have to take a stand for things we believe in," he added. Former national boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu along with Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee wrestler Kartar Singh, Arjuna awardee basketball player Sajjan Singh Cheema and Arjuna awardee hockey player Rajbir Kaur in solidarity to farmers also spoke about returning of awards.

In Haryana, the BJP-JJP government continues to be under pressure as another JJP MLA, Amarjeet Dhanda, has backed the protesting farmers. Earlier, another JJP MLA, Ram Kumar Gautam, had also come in support of farmers who are protesting against the three farm Bills.

Half a dozen *khaps* have also decided to boycott MLAs including Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala and Hisar MP Brijendra Singh. Sarv Dhadan Khap, president Dalbir Sheokand said, "We have decided to ban BJP-JJP leaders entry to the villages including Chautala and Brijendra Singh, Agriculture Minister Jai Parkash Dalal and actress Kangana Ranaut."

Haryana Agriculture Minister Jai Prakash Dalal, however, expressed, that the Centre will soon come up with a solution. "Even I say that I am a farmer first, then a minister and I am always with farmers," Dalal asserted.

Almonds from US for farmers

The farmers camping at the Singhu and Tikri borders of Delhi against the Centre's new farm laws are being sent pinnis, ladoos and American almonds by well-wishers. While the sweets are coming from the villages of Punjab and Haryana, the almonds are from the US. 25 quintal almonds, grown in California, have been sent by NRIs.

EAM to skip meeting

Admist the differences with Canada over farmers'protest, EAM S Jaishankar will skip the virtual meeting called by Canadian Foreign Minister Francois-Phillipe Champagne on Monday. However, sources said that it was not due to the summoning and scheduling issues that was preventing the minister from participating in the VC.

Take farmers' protest seriously: Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday asked the Centre to take serious cognisance of the ongoing farmers' protest and said if the deadlock continues, the agitation will not be limited to Delhi and people from across the country will stand by the protesting cultivators.

Pawar said when the farmers are protesting on streets, it should be taken seriously. "But, unfortunately, that is not happening," the former Union agriculture minister said.

"I hope wisdom dawns on the government and it takes cognisance to resolve the issue. If this stalemate continues, the protest will not be limited to Delhi, but people from nook and corner of the country will stand by the protesting farmers," he said.

They have also called for a 'Bharat Bandh' on December 8.Talks between the government and protesting farmers remained inconclusive on Saturday even as union leaders stuck to their demand for the repeal of the new farm laws.

VOICES

Centre should understand the seriousness of the farmers' demands and pain. It should agree to their demands soon
Deepender Singh Hooda, Congress leader

If the farmers are not there, then how can the transporters survive. Moreover, most of the transporters also come from farmer families
Kultaran Singh Atwal, All India Motor Transport Congress president

A country is not run by stubborn attitude. It is rather run through dialogue, consultation and communication. But PM is a dictator
Tariq Anwar, AICC general secretaryTransport Congress president

Yechury, Stalin issue joint statement, show support

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, DMK chief M K Stalin and PAGD chairman Farooq Abdullah issued a joint statement on Sunday, supporting the bandh, calling upon the Centre to meet the genuine demands of the farmers.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, CPI general secretary D Raja, general secretary of CPI(ML) Dipankar Bhattacharya, AIFB general secretary Debabrata Biswas and Manoj Bhattacharya, general secretary of RSP, have also signed the joint statement.

Meanwhile, the BJP went into a counter offensive against the Opposition leaders on Sunday, releasing letters written by the likes of Sharad Pawar in 2010 as a Union minister to state chief ministers wherein he had argued for the alternative mechanism to the APMC mandis and encouragement for the private players in procurement of the foodgrains.

Sikh-Americans march to Indian consulate

New Delhi: Sikh-Americans held protest rallies across the US in support of the agitating farmers. Protesters in California blocked traffic on the Bay Bridge and headed towards the Indian Consulate in San Francisco while large number of people gathered in Indianapolis demanding the repeal of the farm laws. **ENS**

Almonds arrive from the US to battle cold

Chandigarh: The farmers camping at the Singhu and Tikri borders of Delhi are being sent pinnis, ladoos and American almonds by well-wishers. At least 25 quintal almonds, grown in California, have been sent from the Paragpur village by four NRI brothers. **ENS**

MSP for paddy hiked under NDA govt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DURING the subsequent six years of the NDA government, the MSP has grown at a comparatively modest rate of 40-73%. While the MSP of paddy (common) was ₹580 in the year 2006-07, it reached the level of Rs 1310 in 2013-14 — a growth of 126%. Similarly, the MSP of wheat increased by 87% and of Tur (Arhar) by a whopping 205%.

Under the NDA government, the MSP of paddy (common) increased from ₹1,310 in 2013-14 to ₹1,868 in 2020-21 — a growth of nearly 43%. Similarly, the MSP of wheat and tur went up by 41% and 40% respectively during the same period.

Data also showed that while both the governments — the UPA or NDA-have continuously raised the MSP, only 30-35 % of the wheat and paddy could be procured by the government under the Central pool. In other words, only about 3.08 crore tones of wheat, out of the 9.85 crore tones produced, were procured by the government. Likewise, of the 10.97 crore tones of paddy produced during 2016-17, only 3.81 crore tones were procured.

Government fixes the MSP of 22 mandated agricultural crops based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices.

'Centre's vaccination plan flawed, unscientific'

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

STRESSING that the government's plan to inoculate only a critical section of the population will not halt the Covid pandemic, health experts feel that the decision appears to be more for concealing its unwillingness to go for universal immunisation.

While Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan had asserted that the Centre never said the entire population will be vaccinated, ICMR chief Balram Bhargava had claimed that universal immunisation may not be required if "critical mass of people" is vaccinated and the chain of transmission is broken in the country.

But, specialists said the government seems to be trying to wriggle out of its own promise of universal vaccination. "The only way to contain the pandemic is by achieving herd immunity through immunising a sizeable chunk of population and the government is not even specifying who the critical mass will be vaccinated," said an epidemiologist who is part of ICMR's task force on Covid surveillance and epidemiology.

The government maintains that those prioritised for vaccination include frontline workers like HCWs, elderly and those with comorbidities.

Aurnab Ghoshe from the Indian Institute of Scientific Education Research highlighted a trend observed in Pune's Lohiyanagar-Kasewadi area. Nearly 66 % people tested were found to have antibodies but six new cases per 1,000 population were still detected between August and November. "So, around 400 new infections, or 100 new infections every month, were still found in just a small area despite such high seroprevalence. So even if a small part of the population in a country like India is immunized, it may not be enough. It will keep pushing thousands to serious disease. Many will eventually succumb," Ghose said.

While healthcare and frontline workers may be most vulnerable, it's not clear why the government believes that vaccinating them will be enough to control the pandemic. "Is there any evidence that they transmit the disease more? If there is, the government should present it," he said.

Epidemiologist Chandrakant Lahariya opined that the vaccination plan has to be dynamic. "It needs prior prioritisation of target beneficiaries as a process. The principles on which target vaccinee will be selected need to be spelt out," the co-author of the book *'Till We Win: India's Fight Against Covid-19 Pandemic.'*

Virus caseload plunges to 4 lakh after 138 days

India's Covid caseload rose to 96.44 lakh, while the total number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 91 lakh pushing the national recovery rate to 94.37%, according to Health Ministry data updated on Sunday. The caseload plunged to almost 4 lakh after 138 days.

MISSION 2024

BJP to now have 28 depts, tech adoption on its radar

MANISH ANAND @New Delhi

WITH sight fixed on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP is seeking to reinvent the party as additionally charged up cadre driven outfit along with a strong thrust on becoming an auxiliary of the government at the Centre.

To give effect to the twin challenges, the BJP has expanded its departments from 18 to 28, which includes three wings to focus on one each Central scheme with larger people's participations.

An internal note of the BJP, a copy of which is with this newspaper, has detailed 28 new departments, which will look after designated areas. The BJP has created a separate social media department, carving it out from the department of IT, which will now focus on technology adoption.

It has created three new departments — Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, and Namami Gange. The three new departments, incidentally, have spelt out responsibilities. There were no such departments in the BJP previously. "We've to form volunteer groups in every Shakti Kendra to take up Swachh Bharat Abhiyan once each week and on important occasions. Society should be educated to stop single use plastic, and we should create a platform to engage all like-minded service organisations," reads the internal note.

Three years on, 50% states yet to set up online pollution tracking despite SC rule

RICHA SHAMA @New Delhi

THREE years after the Supreme Court had directed all State Pollution Control Boards to install Online Continuous Emission and Monitoring System (OCEMS) within 6 months, only 50 per cent have complied and even with those, the information is not easily accessible.

An analysis by the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE) shows that there are 35 SPCBs and PCCs in India. Only 32 of them were required to comply with the top court's direction as — Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram — do not have any industries which require installation of OCEMS. So far 16 states/UTs have complied with the judgment but only 38 per cent let the user assess historical data. The rest display current monitoring values or data from the past 24 hours to 30 days.

OCEMS involves an intricate set of equipment assembled to relay emissions and effluent discharge levels in real-time to servers of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) as well as the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Data from OCEMS helps regulators in overall surveillance of industries. Besides government monitoring, public access to the pollution data online can be instrumental in keeping additional vigilance on pollution from industries. "Any rise in pollution from an industrial unit has first and foremost implication on the people living in its vicinity. Thus, the OCEMS provides a means to realise their right to clean air and water by empowering them with information on possible sources of pollution interfering with these rights," the report said.

EXPRESS READ

Case against Unitech MD in Canara bank fraud

New Delhi: The CBI has booked Managing Director of Unitech Sanjay Chandra, his father Ramesh and brother Ajay for alleged bank fraud of ₹198 crore in Canara bank, officials said Sunday.

BJP LOSES SEATS IN PM MODI'S CONSTITUENCY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

IN a major setback for the BJP in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Varanasi constituency, the party has lost two seats in the legislative council elections

Both the seats — one reserved for teachers and the other for graduates — were won by the Samajwadi Party candidates.

The two seats that the Samajwadi Party bagged out of four of the 11 seats, the Samajwadi Party three and independent candidates won two.

Despite a favourable tally for he ruling party, the Samajwadi Party's gains in the BJP stronghold have surprised many.

Uttar Pradesh is one of the six states in India with a bicameral legislature, with two Houses — the Vidhan Sabha or the Legislative Assembly and the Vidhan Parishad or the Legislative Council. The state legislative council has 100 members.

Polling was held on Tuesday for 11 Legislative Council seats — five reserved for the graduates and six for teachers seats with their electors only being graduates and teachers respectively. The BJP, SP, Congress and teachers' associations contested the polls, with 199 candidates in the fray. The BSP had not contested the polls.

The term of office of the MLCs from these constituencies had expired on May 6.

BODY CAMERA

Bus conductors and ticket inspectors in Maharashtra's Aurangabad city will soon be equipped with body cameras to keep a tab on the behaviour of passengers and other activities during transportation, an official has said

4 LOCATIONS IN MP EVALUATED FOR REINTRODUCING CHEETAHS

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	34	16	Mumbai	34	23
Bhopal	31	14	Panaji	35	25
Jaipur	29	15	Patna	28	14
Amritsar	24	12	Lucknow	28	13
Chennai	29	25	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	30	20	Imphal	23	9
Srinagar	12	4	Chandigarh	28	13

RAJ POLITICS

Is Gehlot trying to kill two birds with one stone?

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

RUMOUR mills are abuzz once again in Rajasthan after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched a broadside on Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the BJP on Saturday. While inaugurating a Congress office in Sirohi district through a virtual conference on Saturday evening, Gehlot alleged that BJP and Amit Shah are again trying to destabilise his government.

Though the BJP hit back by saying that Gehlot's comments depicted his frustration at being a "non-performing" CM, political observers say that the timing of Gehlot's attack is perhaps a veiled effort to corner Sachin Pilot and his followers just ahead of several important political appointments.

During the political crisis that erupted in Rajasthan earlier this year, former deputy CM Sachin Pilot had led a rebellion. At that time, Gehlot had accused Pilot of being "misled" by the BJP to topple the Congress government.

There are rumours that many MLAs of the Gehlot camp are restless over political appointments not taking place. While a few political appointments have been made, none of the appointees are from the Pilot's camp. Experts say Gehlot is attempting to kill two birds with one stone wherein while one is a direct attack on the BJP, the other is a veiled attack to clip the wings of Pilot.

EXPRESS READ

No 'black day' on Babri demolition anniversary

Ayodhya: The 28th anniversary of Babri Masjid demolition here in Uttar Pradesh was unlike the previous years as no community held any event on Sunday to mark the day. Muslims in Ayodhya usually observed this day as 'Black Day'. The administration has covered the temple town with a heavy security blanket and issued warnings not to observe any event on the occasion of Babri Masjid demolition, citing the epidemic Act that is in force since March this year. ENS

BJP steals the campaign show during J&K DDC polls

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE BJP is taking a lead in the poll campaign for the first-ever District Development Council (DDC) election in Jammu and Kashmir as top party leaders and Union ministers have visited the Union Territory to campaign for the party candidates. Meanwhile, several Congress leaders have left the J&K Congress to fend for themselves, and top leaders of Gupkar Alliance have stayed away from campaigning.

The 4th phase of DDC elections for 34 seats would be held on Monday amid tight security measures. Union ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Anurag Thakur, Jitendra Singh, Smriti Irani and Krishan Pal Gujrar have been campaigning for party candidates in the DDC polls.

Besides, senior BJP leaders, including Tarun Chug, who is J&K in-charge of the party, Shahnawaz Hussain, Zafar Islam and Ramesh Bidhuri, have also canvassed for party candidates in both Jammu and Kashmir regions. Infact, Shahnawaz has been camping in the Valley and campaigning for party candidates in north, central and south Kashmir.

However, unlike the BJP, none of the top Congress leaders has campaigned for party candidates in DDC polls. The DDC polls assume significance as it is the first major electoral exercise in J&K after the scrapping of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K state into two Union Territories by the Centre in 2019.

Of the 34 seats going to polls on Monday, 17 seats each are in Kashmir and Jammu regions. A total of 249 candidates are in the fray. Officials said 7,17,322 electors, including 3,76,797 men and 3,40,525 women, are eligible to cast their vote in the 4th phase.

Top Gupkar leaders stay away from campaign

Abdullahs and Mehbooba have stayed away from the campaigns despite the PAGD contesting the polls to keep "the BJP away". The political grouping had initially deciding not to contest the polls. Only the PAGD spokesman Sajjad Gani Lone has participated in campaigns

A day ahead of the fourth phase of DDC polls in Jammu and Kashmir, militants attacked a police party killing one personnel on Sunday. Special Operation Group personnel are seen inspecting the spot in Srinagar | PTI

Nadda to bring WB poll battle to Didi's backyard

BJP chief to meet voters in municipal ward where Mamata stays

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

IN yet another bid to showcase itself as a formidable contender in the next year's assembly elections in West Bengal, the BJP is bringing its national president, JP Nadda, to take up an outreach programme in Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's backyard.

Nadda will participate in a door-to-door outreach drive from Tuesday in the area where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee resides. He will meet voters living in the same ward of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) where Mamata's residence is located.

Nadda will also participate in a mass-connect campaign in Diamond Harbour, the Lok Sabha constituency of CM's nephew Abhishek Banerjee. The BJP leader will be in the state for three days.

"We selected the chief minister's area which is under Bhawanipur Assembly constituency because we want to make deep inroads in the chief minister's residential zone. Our party decided to depute its organisational head to send a message for the voters who are chief minister's neighbours," said a BJP leader.

BJP has re-launched its campaign titled *Aar Noy Onnay* (No more injustice) to

JP Nadda

sharpen attack on the ruling party, eyeing the upcoming Assembly elections slated to be held in April-May next year. The party published pamphlets showcasing "the success of BJP-led Central government and the failure of Trinamool Congress-led state government".

"Naddaji will interact with the CM's neighbours at their door-step and give them these pamphlets. Similar practice will be followed in Abhishek's Lok Sabha constituency," said the BJP leader.

As West Bengal is heading towards the crucial elections, several national leaders and Union ministers are scheduled to visit the state in the coming days. Three Central ministers are already in the state and participating in the ongoing campaign.

"The Central ministers will visit several places ranging from Junglemahal to Kolkata. They will not address any rally. Instead, the ministers will meet voters at their houses. The drive is aimed to woo the voters residing in the ruling party's strongholds," said another BJP leader.

Sources in the saffron camp said the outreach drive will be more focused in south Bengal. "We made inroads in north Bengal by bagging 7 Lok Sabha seats out of 8 in last year's general elections. Now we are aiming at the southern part of the state where the TMC was in better position," a BJP leader said.

All parties except BJP are family-centric: Nadda

Terming rival political parties as family-centric, BJP president J P Nadda on Sunday said BJP is the only ideology-based party where the whole organisation is "one big family".' Nadda was addressing a booth committee of the Uttarakhand Pradesh BJP on the third day of his tour to strengthen the party's organisational structure. Underscoring the key role of cadres, Nadda said even a booth level worker can be seen rising to higher positions only in the BJP. "Our cadre base is our speciality and it is built through booth committees," he said.

Uttarakhand to withdraw interfaith marriage aid

Dehradun: Uttarakhand government is mulling to end monetary benefits extended for inter-faith marriage. The move comes after the state government got into a controversy recently when the social welfare department issued a press release encouraging to avail benefits of the scheme which provides ₹50,000 for inter-faith marriages. Madan kaushik, state cabinet minister, said, "With the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018, the scheme has already become null and void. It seems the press release was issued amid confusion which will be sorted soon."

2 brothers arrested in UP over interfaith marriage

POLICE HAVE arrested a Muslim man and his brother under Uttar Pradesh's new anti-conversion law when he visited the registrar's office here to record his marriage to a Hindu woman.

A video clip purportedly showed Bajrang Dal activists asking the couple if the woman had given notice to the local district magistrate over her intention to change her religion, a requirement under the new UP ordinance.

Kanth station house officer Ajay Gautam said the two men were arrested Friday on the basis of a complaint by the woman's parents.

The woman said she is an adult and married the man a few months ago of her free will. It was not immediately known whether she also changed her religion.

According to reports, Moradabad man Rashid had met the woman from Bijnore when he was working in Dehradun where she was studying.

Police reached the registrar's office after being approached by Bajrang Dal activists. The two men were then produced before a magistrate and sent to prison.

The recently promulgated Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020 nullifies marriages if they are carried out for the sole purpose of religious conversion.

In recent cases, police in UP have arrested seven people in Sitapur citing the new law to check forcible and fraudulent conversions.

Though the term doesn't figure in the ordinance, it was promulgated amid assertions by BJP leaders that a strict law was needed against 'love jihad', a reference to claims that Hindu women are being lured or forced into marriages performed only for their conversion. *PTI*

Arms seizures in Punjab a cause for worry

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A huge cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition being recovered by Punjab Police at consistent intervals during last three years underline the fact that the threat perception in this border state can never be discounted.

In the backdrop of the current farmers' agitation against the contentious agri laws, this is all the more worrying. Political parties of Punjab have repeatedly underscored the high possibility of Pakistan's ISI misusing the situation to foment trouble.

According to the state government, the police have busted 30 terror modules and arrested 170 hardcore terrorists since March 2017, besides recovering around sophisticated rifles and pistols, hand grenades, Chinese-made drones, satellite phones and other hardware.

"Since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the militants have tried to use Punjab border for weapon smuggling," said a senior police officer, citing tightened vigil along the Line of Control in J&K as the reason.

CM Amarinder Singh had appraised the Centre of the concerns that Pakistan may take advantage of the present situation. During his dharna in Delhi last month, Singh said that Pakistan was up to some mischief and was trying to drop weapons in drones every day.

New parties to give tough time to AGP

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

FOR the Assamese sub-nationalists and people believing in regionalism, their options have increased with the birth of some regional political parties ahead of next year's Assembly elections even as the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) remains unfazed.

The party, which put up a show of strength at a massive rally in Bokakhat on Sunday, said people's sentiments were attached to it. "There is a history behind the birth of the AGP. People's sentiments are attached to it. So, it cannot be destroyed," AGP chief and the state's Agriculture Minister Atul Bora said.

The AGP, which is a constituent of Assam's ruling coalition, was born out of the six-year-long bloody Assam Agitation, spearheaded by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) in early 1980s.

The AGP was founded on a historic movement which saw 855 people attaining martyrdom. The birth of the party was a call of time and the party is still relevant

Atul Bora, AGP president

AGP chief Atul Bora leading a motorcycle rally in Bokakhat on Sunday | EXPRESS

Over the past few months, Assam saw the birth of several regional forces, including Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP) and Raijor Dal, as a result of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA. While the AJP was floated by AASU and Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chhatra Parishad, Raijor Dal was the brainchild of 70 organisations, including peasants' body Krishak Mukti Sangram Samitee.

Both these parties are expected to give the AGP a tough time. First, a section of people is not happy over the AGP's flip-flop over the CAA. During the height of anti-CAA protests, the AGP had pulled out of the Sarbananda Sonowal government but made a return when the protests subsided. Secondly, the birth of the new regional parties have given those believing in regionalism with options.

LEGAL BURDEN

British-era archaic laws continue to choke courts across country

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THREE years after the Lok Sabha passed the Repealing and Amending Bill and the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill to repeal 245 obsolete and archaic laws, and identified approximately 1,800 more, there are many laws prevalent in India which owe their origin to British.

Pending court cases have continued to rise gradually over the past year, straining the country's already overburdened judicial system. India now has almost 4 crore pending cases in the Supreme Court, high courts and the numerous subordinate courts.

Though 1,200 archaic laws were scrapped in bulk, India still follows many obsolete laws. For instance, one of the laws that were struck down was the Dramatic Performance Act, 1876, which curbed theatrical representation in India, and was initially implemented by the Raj to police the theatre that was likely to excite feelings of disaffection to the government.

Likewise, the law of sedition, which often comes under criticism on ground of scuttling freedom of speech and expression, was introduced in India from the UK where it was abolished in 2009. In India we still practice it and year after year the pendency under the sedition law is increasing.

Similarly, the law of blasphemy ie Section 295A of the IPC has been time and again imposed for banning publication of books and other content. In 2008, the law was abolished in the UK arguing that little-used laws like blasphemy served no useful purpose and that they instead allowed religious groups to censor artists. But it is still being practiced in India. In 2016, comedian Kiku Sharda was arrested for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of followers of Dera Sacha Sauda leader Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and slapped with section 295A IPC.

The UK has also abolished a law similar to Section 141 of the IPC, according to which an assembly of five or more persons becomes unlawful if the common intent of all members is to show criminal force, or to resist the execution of any law. This vague provision of the law has led to prohibition of even peaceful gatherings, issued under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Priya Kushwaha declared 'Best Differently Abled Athlete' in UP

Priya Kushwaha, daughter of an ex-serviceman JS Kushwaha and student of Asha School, Lucknow, has been declared 'Best Disabled Athlete' of Uttar Pradesh 2020-21. Priya is a student with intellectual disability but her strong determination and will power to march ahead despite odds has made her a recipient of several accolades. She was coached in roller skating by Ajit Verma and Neelam Srivastava. Skating since the age of 12 years, Priya had won two gold and one bronze medal in 300m, 1,000m and 2x100m relay respectively in the Special Olympics held in Abu Dhabi in 2019. She also represented UP (Solan) in the team event of floor hockey in which the team secured a bronze medal.

IKEA to invest ₹5,000 cr in state; first store to come up soon in Noida

Swedish furniture and home appliances company IKEA has decided to invest ₹5,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh, which it expects will generate employment. The company has proposed to open multiple stores in the state. The first one will come up in Noida in a few weeks. IKEA is one of the world's largest companies dealing in manufacturing of furniture and home applications. The Swedish company is also preparing to open around a dozen outlets in UP by investing ₹5,000 crore. The UP government has awarded 47,833 square metres of land in Noida to IKEA for opening its outlet. After Noida, IKEA plans to open at least three major outlets in eastern UP. The company had signed an MoU with the UP government at the investors' summit in December 2018. IKEA started its first centre in Hyderabad at a cost of ₹700 crore in 2016. It plans to open a total of 25 centres in India by 2025 by investing ₹10,500 crore. About half of them will be in UP alone.

NAMITA BAJPAI

The author is the correspondent of the New Indian Express in Uttar Pradesh. Email: namita.bajpai@newindianexpress.com

Lucknow gasps for breath, finds place among top 5 polluted cities in India

Kanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Lucknow, Ghaziabad and Bulandshahr are country's top five cities in that order with most polluted air. As per the recent Central Pollution Control Board data, Kanpur had the most choking air with Air Quality Index (AQI) 431, followed next by Muzaffarnagar with AQI 422 and the state capital where pollution levels have doubled in just five days recorded an AQI of 420. Kanpur, Muzaffarnagar and Lucknow were the only cities with 'severe' air quality among the 116 monitored by the CCB. Besides these, four more UP cities were among the top 10 with most polluted air. The fourth most polluted was Ghaziabad with AQI 377, Bulandshahr was fifth at 373, Moradabad (363) and Noida (360).

Prof Sangita Srivastava is first woman VC of Allahabad University

Prof Sangita Srivastava took over as the new regular vice-chancellor of Allahabad University (AU). She is the first woman to get appointed to the top post of the 133-year-old university which attained central status in 2005. Srivastava also becomes the first faculty member of AU itself to have reached the top post as a regular V-C. The post of AU V-C was being managed by officiating vice-chancellors ever since the last regular incumbent Prof RL Hangloo tendered his resignation on December 31, 2019. After taking over, Srivastava resolved to make all efforts to restore the lost glory of the institution by improving the academic environment and promote quality research.

€500 bn
analysts expect the European Central Bank to add to its bond-buying scheme

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	18	7	SNY	Los Angeles	31	18	SNY
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	24	13	LC
Dhaka	34	25	LC	Moscow	15	9	LR
Dubai	37	25	SNY	New York	13	13	HR
Houston	33	21	LC	Singapore	32	26	TDS
Istanbul	24	17	LC	Toronto	16	11	LC
London	12	9	LR	Washington	19	15	LR

Trump bid to overturn election can have lasting impact: Experts

At first post-poll rally, Trump stuck to claims on vote fraud, despite risk of lowering turnout in crucial Georgia runoffs; many Republicans have adopted his tactics

ATLANTA

US President Donald Trump is pressing his grievances over losing the presidential election, using a weekend rally to spread baseless allegations of misconduct in last month's voting in Georgia and beyond even as he pushed supporters to turn out for a pair of Republican Senate candidates in a runoff election in January.

"Let them steal Georgia again, you'll never be able to look yourself in the mirror," Trump told rallygoers.

Trump's 100-minute rally before thousands of largely maskless supporters came not long after he was rebuffed by Georgia's Republican governor in his astounding call for a special legislative session to give him the state's electoral votes, even though President-elect Joe Biden won more votes than any other candidate.

Experts worry that even after he exits the White House, Trump's efforts to challenge the legitimacy of the election and seeking to overturn the will of voters could have staying power.

Trump's tactics are already inspiring other candidates and have been embraced by a wide array of Republicans. Supporters include congressional candidates, state lawmakers, party chairs, conservative legal groups and appointees to previously little-known state vote-certification boards. The breadth of support for Trump's effort could be a troubling sign for future elections.

"What this president is doing is poisoning democracy," former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm said. "And, yes, he is setting a precedent, suggesting that it is OK to violate these norms that have made our country great."

"Next time could be worse," constitutional law expert Edward B. Foley warned in an oped last week.

The Jan. 5 Senate runoffs in Georgia will determine the balance of power in Washington after Biden takes office. Republicans in the state are worried that Trump is stoking so much suspicion about Georgia elections that voters will think the system is rigged and decide to sit out the two races.

US President Donald Trump addresses the crowd at a rally for Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, who are both facing runoff elections in Georgia | AP

The latest futile attempt to subvert the presidential election results continued Trump's campaign to undermine confidence in the democratic process, but overshadowed his purpose in traveling to Georgia — boosting Senators David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler.

Conspiracy theories run wild

In the last one month, Trump and his allies have pushed conspiracies involving voting machines manipulated by dead foreign leaders and tens of thousands of fraudulent mail ballots that somehow escaped layers of security and scrutiny by election workers across the country. They have filed lawsuits without evidence, tried to pressure state lawmakers into seating their own electors and sought to influence low-level party members who sit on the state and local boards that certify election results.

At the Georgia rally, Trump did echo Republican rhetoric that the races amounted to "the most important congressional runoff, probably in American history." But it quickly became apparent that Trump was intent on airing his own complaints and stoking doubts about the conduct of last month's vote, rather than boosting his party. *AP*

UK vaccine rollout to begin, queen in line for jab

LONDON

THE coronavirus vaccine developed by American drugmaker Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech was being sent to hospitals across the U.K. in super-cold containers on Sunday, two days ahead of the kickoff of Britain's biggest-ever immunization program, one being closely watched around the world.

Around 800,000 doses of the vaccine are expected to be in place for the start of the rollout on Tuesday, a day that British Health Secretary Matt Hancock has reportedly dubbed as "V-Day," a nod to triumphs in World War II.

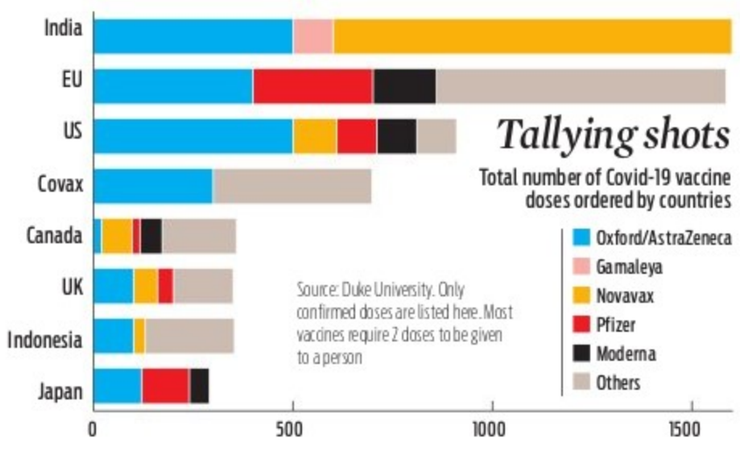
"Despite the huge complexities, hospitals will kickstart the first phase of the largest scale vaccination campaign in our country's history from Tuesday," said Professor Stephen Powis, NHS England's national medical director. "The first tranche of vaccine deliveries will be landing at hospitals by Monday in readiness."

Nurses at a London hospital train support staff on how to administer a vaccine | AP

Last week the U.K. became the first country to authorize the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine for emergency use. In trials, the vaccine was shown to have around 95% efficacy. Vaccinations will be administered starting Tuesday at around 50 hospital hubs in England. Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland will also begin their vaccination rollouts the same day.

Governments and health agencies around the world will be monitoring the vaccination program to note its successes and failures and adjust their own plans. The US hopes to start vaccinations later this month. British authorities are also examining data on vaccines made by Moderna and AstraZeneca-Oxford.

Buckingham Palace refused to comment on speculation that Queen Elizabeth II, 94, and her 99-year-old husband, Prince Philip, will be vaccinated within weeks and then make it public. The senior royals will "let it be known" they have been given the inoculations "as a powerful counter to the anti-vaccination movement," the *Sunday Times* said.



China preps for huge vax programme

TAIPEI

PROVINCIAL governments across China are placing orders for experimental, domestically made coronavirus vaccines, though health officials have yet to say how well they work or how they may reach the country's 1.4 billion people.

Developers are speeding up final testing, the Chinese foreign minister said during a UN meeting last week, as Britain approved emergency use of Pfizer's vaccine candidate and providers scrambled to set up distribution.

Even without final approval, more than 1 million health care workers and others in China who are deemed at high risk of infection have received experimental vaccines under emergency use permission. There has been no word on possible side effects.

China's fledgling pharma industry has at least five vaccines from four producers being tested in over a dozen countries. Health experts say even if they are successful, the certification process for the US, Europe, Japan and other developed countries might be too complex for them to be used there. However, China said it will ensure the products are affordable for developing countries. *AP*

US vaccine chief: Shots will be long-lasting

The head of the US vaccine development effort said on Sunday he believes the Covid-19 vaccine could have long-lasting effect once distributed. Dr. Moncef Slaoui told *CNN* that only time will tell for certain, but that in his opinion, the vaccine's effectiveness could last for "many, many years," with older people and others who are more vulnerable requiring a booster every three to five years.

VACCINE EXPORTS

Supply of doses per year by Chinese firms

Sinopharm	**220** million
Sinovac	**300** million
CanSino	**100-200** million

Source: WSJ, Duke University, WHO

UK'S VIRGIN ATLANTIC TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO PAK

British airline Virgin Atlantic will commence its flight operations for the country from December 13 as the country's aviation regulatory body has given its approval, *Dawn* said on Sunday. Virgin Atlantic is scheduled to start its flight operations for Islamabad and Lahore and will use Airbus A-332 aircraft to continue a weekly eight-flight operation to the two cities. The airline will operate four weekly flights between London and Lahore and three flights between London and Islamabad. The decision of Virgin Atlantic comes following the decision of European Commission to retain the ban on Pakistan International Airlines operations in the EU member countries.

Hg 21/01/2021
IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE BANGALORE
P & S.C.No.25005/2019

BETWEEN:
1. SRI.S.SONTI, Aged 54 years, Son of Sri.Venkataramanaiah Sonti.
2. SRI.KAMAL SONTI, Aged 52 years, Son of Sri.Venkataramanaiah Sonti.
Both residing at No.M-47, Diamond District, Off Old Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bangalore 560008.

PETITIONERS

AND: NIL

RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the Petitioners have filed the above petition for the Order of Grant of the Succession Certificate in their favour for the purpose of tansmission of the moveable and immovable properties as mentioned in the Schedule below belonging to their sister RANI SONTI, who died on 14/12/2017 and to pass such other relief/s as this Hon'ble Court deems fit and which case is pending on the File of Hon'ble Additional City Civil Judge, Bangalore and any third parties interested hereby summoned to appear before the Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above petition on **21/01/2021 at 11-00 AM** before the said Court to answer the claim of the Petitioners.

In default of your appearance on the day mentioned above, the matter will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this **21st day of November 2020.**

SCHEDULE

A) The immovable property bearing No.46/1 situated at 19th Main Road, 6th Cross, HAL 2nd Stage with PID No.74-74-46/1, Ward No.88, Jeevenbhimanagar, Bangalore.
B) Fixed Deposit/Term Deposit with Account bearing No.130103311009396 for a sum of Rs.6,00,000/- (rupees six lakhs only) with VIJAYA BANK, Indira Nagar Branch, Bangalore.
C) Fixed Deposit/Term Deposit with Account No.130103311-010832 for a sum of Rs.2,00,000/- (rupees two lakhs only) with VIJAYA RANK, Indiranagar, Bangalore.
D) The Existing Bank Balance in Saving Bank Account bearing No. 45610083822 (008382) with STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, M.G.Road, Bangalore (Locker Account;
E) A FORD ECO SPORT Titanum Motor Car bearing Regn. No. KA-03/MZ1921 of 2016 Model:
F) Life Insurance policy with BAJAJ ALLIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED, Bangalore.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYO HALL, BANGALORE.

Sd/- Advocate for Petitioner (SMT. PARVATHI.Y)

Amid Arab outreach, Saudi prince calls Israel a 'Western coloniser'

DUBAI

A prominent Saudi prince harshly criticized Israel on Sunday at a Bahrain security summit that was remotely attended by Israel's foreign minister, showing the challenges any further deals between Arab states and Israel face in the absence of an independent Palestinian state.

The fiery remarks by Prince Turki al-Faisal at the Manama Dialogue appeared to catch Israel's foreign minister off guard, particularly as Israelis receive warm welcomes from officials in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates following agreements to normalize ties.

Left unresolved by those deals, however, is the decades-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The Palestinians view those pacts as a stab in the back from their fellow Arabs and a betrayal of their cause.

Prince Turki opened his remarks by contrasting what he described as Israel's perception of being "peace-loving upholders of high moral principles" versus what he described as a far-darker Palestinian reality of living under a "Western colonising" power.

Israel has "incarcerated (Palestinians) in concentration camps under the flimsiest of security accusations

— young and old, women and men, who are rotting there without recourse to justice," Prince Turki said. "They are demolishing homes as they wish and they assassinate whomever they want."

The prince also criticized Israel's undeclared arsenal of nuclear weapons and Israeli governments "unleashing their political minions and their media outlets from other countries to denigrate and demonize Saudi Arabia."

The prince reiterated the kingdom's official position that the solution lies in implementing the Arab Peace Initiative, a 2002 Saudi-sponsored deal that offers Israel full ties with all Arab states in return for Palestinian statehood on territory Israel captured in 1967. He added: "You cannot treat an open wound with palliatives and pain killers" *AP*

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (L) and US-backed opposition leaderJuan Guaido | AP

Maduro eyes victory as Venezuelan polls open

CARACAS

Polls opened Sunday in legislative elections set to tighten Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's grip on power and weaken his US-backed rival, Juan Guaido, who is leading a boycott of the polls he calls a fraud.

Victory will give Maduro's ruling Socialist Party control of an expanded 227-seat National Assembly -- the only institution not in its hands.

"The time has come to vote for peace, for the country, for the future!" Maduro said in a message to supporters on the Telegram messaging application, shortly before voting began at 6.30 am local time (1030 GMT).

Initial turnout was low however, with many polling stations in Caracas either empty or with few voters.

"I have faith that everything will be fine," said Fany Molina as she voted in a school in the center of the capital. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Roald Dahl family apologises for remarks

The family of writer Roald Dahl apologised on Sunday for historical anti-Semitic comments made by the renowned author. Dahl, who died in 1990, made the offensive remarks in a 1983 interview with the New Statesman magazine. In a statement on the The Roald Dahl Story Company's website, the family and firm said they "deeply apologise for the lasting and understandable hurt caused".

Most of California to enter sweeping lockdown

The vast region of Southern California, much of the San Francisco Bay area and a large swath of the Central Valley are about to be placed under a sweeping new lockdown in an urgent attempt to slow the rapid rise of coronavirus cases. The California Department of Public Health said Saturday the intensive care unit capacity in Southern California and Central Valley hospitals had fallen below a 15% threshold that triggers the new measures.

Oxygen shortage kills 7 Covid patients in Pak

PESHAWAR

SEVEN patients being treated for the coronavirus died after one of the largest hospitals in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar ran out of oxygen supplies, officials said Sunday.

Farhad Khan, a spokesman at Khyber Teaching Hospital, said the patients died Saturday night when the vendor who supplies the hospital with medical oxygen to refill tanks failed to arrive in time. The hospital, the second largest in Peshawar, receives its oxygen cylinders from a vendor in Rawalpindi, a city about 190 km away, Khan said.

Provincial Health Minister Taimur Saim Jhagra tweeted about the incident, saying the hospital's board of governors has been ordered to complete an investigation into the deaths and take action within 48 hours against those responsible. He promised that "all facts of the case will be made public."

More than 200 patients -- including nearly 100 with coronavirus -- were left for hours with limited supplies of oxygen.

Pakistan, a country of around 220 million people, has recorded 58 Covid-19 deaths over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of confirmed deaths from the virus to 8,361. The number of total confirmed cases in Pakistan stands at nearly 416,500.

That number, like other places around the world, is likely somewhat higher due to limited testing. Pakistan has tested around 5.8 million people for the virus.

ICUs in hospitals across the country are now almost full, with provincial governments struggling to deal with the soaring caseload. *Agencies*

SOUTH INDIAN Bank
The South Indian Bank Ltd.,
Regd. Office. Thrissur, Kerala
Regional Office: SIB Arcade, #61, Wheeler Road, Cox Town, Bangalore - 560 005.
Tel./ Fax No: +91 80-25479091 / 92 | E-mail: ro1010@sib.co.in
CIN: L65191KL1929PLC001017 | Website: www.southindianbank.com

[See rule 8 (1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice dated 30.07.2020 u/s. 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrower, **Sri. Rudy Jerome Joseph Sequeira alias Rudy JJ Sequeira alias Rudy Sequeira** (Proprietor of M/s Colours) No. 730, 80 feet Road, Banashankari 3rd stage, Hosakerehalli Cross, Bengaluru-560085 (Also at: No.23, 80 feet Road, Srinivasanagar, Near SBM Colony, Bangalore 560085) (Residing at: No.903/904, Daddy's Elixir Apartments, Kammasandra, Near Fruit Market Bangalore-560100) and Guarantor, **Mrs.Charlotte Sequeira, W/o Sri. Rudy Sequeira**, No. 903/904, Daddy's Elixir Apartments, Kammasandra, Near Fruit Market Bangalore-560100 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice as outstanding in the CCOL limit (0492083000000012) being Rs.70,48,957.62 (Rupees Seventy Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Seven and sixty two paise only) and in the FSL limit (0492652000000162) being Rs.3,20,760.30 (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty and thirty paise only), both amounts as on 29.07.2020, with further interest and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security and Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this the **02nd day of December, 2020**.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of The South Indian Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs.74,48,638.62 as to CCOL limit (0492083000000012) and Rs.3,44,136.30 as to FSL limit (0492652000000162) in the a/cs. of M/s Colours as on 01.12.2020 with further interest and costs thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Immovable properties

Item No. 1
All that piece and parcel of the combined Residential Flats bearing A-903 on 9th Floor of the apartment building called Daady's Elixir having super built up area of 880 Sq.Ft along with one covered car parking space and 387 Sq. Ft of undivided share and Flat No A-904 having super built up area of 900 Square Feet along with one covered car parking space and 396 Square feet of undivided share, title and interest in land admeasuring 01 Acre 32 Guntas in Sy. Nos. 130/1, 130/2 and 130/3 of Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore in the name of Sri. Rudy JJ Sequeira and Smt. Charlotte Sequeira vide Sale Deed No. 3092/2011-12 dated 09-11-2011 and vide Sale Deed No.3093/2011-12 dated 09.11.2011 both of SRO Attibele, and bounded on the North by Sri Kamath's land, South by Sy. No.11/1, East by Venkataramaiah's land and West by Sri Kamath's Land.

Item No. 2
All that 3 BHK Duplex Villa having built-up area of 1960 Sq.Ft Situated in Site bearing No.423 measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South : 30 feet, totally admeasuring 1200 Sq.Ft in the Lay out "Icon Laureis" along with other usufructs and improvements thereon in Sy. No.4 & 40 of Hosahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk in the name of Smt. Charlotte Sequeira and Sri. Rudy JJ Sequeira vide Sale Deed No.1084/2013-14 dated 10.06.2013 of SRO Anekal and bounded on the North by Site No.422, South by Site 424, East by Road and West by Private property.

(The above mentioned properties are offered as General Security for the below mentioned accounts : Housing Loan Limit-I (0492.655.37) & Housing Loan Limit-II (0492.655.38) of Sri Rudy JJ Sequeira and Smt. Charlotte Sequeira and CCOL Limit (0492.83.31) in the n/o. Essentialz, against which Bank reserves its right to proceed against at the appropriate time)

Date : 02.12.2020 — **Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore — **The South Indian Bank Ltd.**

$77 bn was the value of LIC's total equity holdings as of the end of September 2020, a whopping 40 per cent more than last year

MONEY-WISE

SOME BROAD TIPS ON WEALTH—AND SOME ON LIFE!

WEALTH is a mind-set not a sum of money! I met a taxi-driver who knew that the next way to break into the wealth mind-set was education. Two of his sons were engineers—one was now pursuing his MBA, the third son was planning to train to become a Chartered Accountant. He had a Life insurance policy for all the three kids-maturing at their age of 22—so that they get a start in life!

■ You should be willing to give up bad habits like watching TV, buying lottery tickets, gambling, procrastinating, spending all your income, spending using the credit that you get on credit cards, etc.

■ You should be willing to walk away from negative forces—like people who keep saying "you can't". The taxi driver changed his house location from a locale prone to crime to a more friendly area. He said his sons would have been drawn into the gangster life-style if he had stayed in the original place. We need to make positive choices when it comes to deciding on friends, neighbours, etc.

■ If you are under 25 stop listening to old people telling you to invest in Index funds—we are just hoping that you will buy when we have to sell. Go and create your unicorn. Go and fail, life is too long to spend on regret. At 35, you can get married (if you want) and then lead a "normal" life working for somebody else.

■ Invest in experiences, not things—if a phone costing ₹30,000 can do a good job, don't spend ₹1,20,000 on an expensive phone—90k can go towards funding a vacation to Europe! However, if you are going to use all the functions of the ₹1.2 lakh, it may be a good buy! Trekking in the Himalayas or doing Everest base camp are far better experiences to spend on than on things that you do not use!

■ Remember that 'Pain' and 'Pleasure' follow each other-if you choose the pain of lacing up and going for a run, it will be followed by the pleasure of being fit. If you choose the "pleasure" of tucking up in bed in the morning, it will be followed by the "pain" of poor fitness!

■ You need simple financial products-index funds, pure term insurance, one or two credit cards, one or two savings bank accounts, medical insurance, a mortgage. Once you have them start saying NO to most of the other financial products. Just say NO.

■ Having money (being financially free) gives you the choice of where to stay, what to wear, what to eat, whom to meet, what work to do—and with whom. This is a huge, almost EPIC, advantage.

■ The worst thing about financial freedom is that it takes away all EXCUSES that your mind makes up for not exercising, not learning sanskrit, not reading the scriptures, not going to Everest Base camp—so find new things, or bloody well go and live your dreams.

■ One bad marriage does not mean you should not re-marry. Ditto in investing.

(Views expressed are personal)

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

TATA CONSUMER

Current Price ₹563

Target Price ₹623

The merger of Tata Chemicals' food business with TCP and is in line with the group's focus of creating a single FMCG-focused company. The merger offers multiple synergies, including higher outlet coverage, focused new product development, stronger cash flow generation and scale efficiencies. TCP is building its third leg, which should grow in high double-digits—Tata Sampann—dealing in pulses and spices.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express.*

Mid-caps could continue to shine in 2021

RAJAS KELKAR

INVESTING is all about your perception of the risk. When interest rates are low, your capacity to take risks is higher. It is commonly called 'risk appetite' in the market. The Reserve Bank of India left borrowing rates unchanged last Friday. But the RBI will continue to adopt an 'accommodative' credit policy stance to support economic growth. That is despite consumer price inflation hovering over 7 per cent. The credit policy is supposed to target inflation in the economy and keep it in check. However, RBI contends that consumer prices are higher due to the supply-side bottlenecks created by lockdowns across states resulting in restrictions on the free movement of goods.

Amidst such a backdrop, 2021 appears to be a year when mid-caps would do better.

Stock market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India defines large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap shares based on their market capitalisation. In this system, the top 500 companies are ranked according to their market capitalisation. Companies through rank 1 to 100 are large caps. From 101 to 250, they are class are mid-caps and 250 and below are small caps.

The interest in the mid-cap shares has intensified over the past month-the Nifty Midcap 100 index jumped over 25 per cent during the period. Relatively, mid-cap shares have underperformed frontline shares represented by the NSE Nifty over the past three years. The interest in midcap shares now is due to a sharp run-up in large caps fueled by flows from foreign portfolio investors. Investors have access to cheap money, and they are ignoring the most brilliant fall in growth in the quarter ended June 2020. Having contracted in the September 2020 quarter, India's economy is in a recession. That is if you go by the definition of two successive quarters of contraction.

However, share prices today are a function of tomorrow's profits. Investors are betting on the future recovery. The economy is expected to get out of the recession sooner rather than later and corporate profits are likely to be back on track for the year ending March 2022, a good 15 months from now.

You may notice mutual funds promoting schemes that allow you to invest in mid-cap companies. Their assessment is based on some long-term trends. Mutual fund managers and analysts argue that investors should be mindful of a long-term trend where mid-cap companies outperform large-cap ones during the high growth phase. If India sees a V-shaped economic recovery, mid-cap companies in sectors like auto-components, consumer goods, engineering and capital goods, and technology are expected to grow profits faster than large-cap companies over the next two years.

"Many smaller companies have adapted and embarked on prudent cost-cutting measures and cleaned up their balance sheets by reducing debt," said a note put out by Motilal Oswal Asset Management.

What can you do

Individual stock investing in mid-cap companies may be tricky. You may want to take professional help for the purpose. Identifying a stock to invest in needs a lot of reading and analysis. There is limited professional research on companies with lower market capitalisation. You may have to rely on media reports, financial statements of these companies like the annual reports and quarterly result releases. A reading of the management discussion and analysis in the annual report will give you an overview of the market and the environment the company operated through the financial year. However, it would help if you had someone to tell you that it is the right time to buy a particular stock. A professional analyst is your best bet. It is their job to analyse the fundamental data of the company. These analysts usually work with stockbroking companies. So if your broker sends out research reports, do read them regularly to get a sense of the trend.

The other option is to invest through mutual funds. Let them do all the analysis and determine the right stocks to invest your money. A systematic investment plan of a mutual fund scheme that invests in mid-cap stocks could be a good idea for 2021. Your long-term savings have to find their way into companies that are smaller today, but could grow big tomorrow.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

Experts argue that in the long-term, mid-caps may outperform large-caps during the high growth phase

25 per cent rise in Nifty Midcap 100 index over past month as interest in the segment intensifies

7 per cent Consumer retail inflation levels are the key risk to returns from investment

Banks will now pay for not resolving complaints

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

HAVE you made a complaint to your bank but the lender has failed to resolve the grievance? From January 2021 onwards ,this is going to result in a tangible financial charge on the bank, according to new changes in regulations brought in by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Under the new regime, banks will have to pay if they do not work on resolving consumer complaints.

"It has been decided to put in place a comprehensive framework comprising inter alia of enhanced disclosures on customer complaints by the banks, a monetary disincentive in the form of recovery of cost of redress of complaints from banks when maintainable complaints are comparatively high, and undertaking intensive review of grievance redress mechanism and supervisory action against banks that fail to improve their redress mechanism in a time bound manner, " the RBI said in a statement last week.

The framework would be put in place in January 2021, the central bank added. Generally, banks have their own internal consumer complaints redressal mechanisms. And if the bank fails to work on the complaint within the stipulated time period, the consumer has the right to approach the RBI's Banking Ombudsman, who get the complaint resolved.

According to the central bank, the new monetary disincentive on banks will be in the form of recovery of the costs resulting from the redress of these complaints by the Ombudsman. Going by the latest available figures, the average cost of handling a complaint by the banking ombudsman offices stood at ₹3,145 in 2018-19. The central bank also said that the move has been initiated to improve the efficacy of Indian banking's internal grievance redress mechanism and to provide better customer service.

The Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS) was first notified by the RBI in 1995, and covers Scheduled Commercial Banks, Scheduled Primary Urban Co-operative Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, and Payment Banks administered through 21 offices across the country.

During 2018-19 the offices received a total of 1,95,901 complaints, up by 19.75 per cent over the previous year and the disposal rate stood at 94.03 per cent.

It has been decided to put in place.., a monetary disincentive in the form of recovery of cost of redress of complaints from banks when maintainable complaints are comparatively high —Reserve Bank

Withdrawal norms, RTGS timings changed

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

BEGINNING December, a few changes have been introduced-with regards to RTGS transactions, for all banks, and ATM withdrawals, if you are an account-holder in Punjab National Bank (PNB).

First, the Reserve Bank in its policy review announcement made last week, announced that starting December 14, the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System will be available 24x7.

The RTGS system is among the options users of internet banking can use to transfer money— high value transactions in the case of RTGS. The NEFT system (used to transfer smaller amounts) has been available 24x7 for a while now. RTGS will now be available for customers and inter-bank transactions round the clock, except for periods between 'end-of-day' and 'start-of-day' processes. These timings will be notified through the RTGS system.The central bank has also increased the limits on contactless card transactions, from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000.

As for ATM withdrawals, the Punjab National Bank has followed the State Bank of India in introducing an OTP-based system for withdrawals above a certain threshold from ATMs between 8 pm and 8 am. This is an effort to increase transaction security, the bank said. According to PNB, account holders will now need a One Time Password (OTP) to make cash withdrawals above ₹10,000 from ATMs. This requires the person withdrawing the amount to have access to the registered mobile number for the bank account to which the OTP will be sent.

In September, SBI had introduced a similar system for ATM withdrawals of ₹10,000 and above throughout the day across all its ATMs.

Filing ITR forms for AY2020-21? Keep in mind these new requirements

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Bengaluru

WITH the central government extending the last date for submission of ITR (Income tax returns) forms for Assessment Year (AY) 2020-21 to December 31, 2020, taxpayers who hadn't filed returns yet have been offered a little more time.

The new ITR forms notified for AY 2020-21 (and financial year 2019-2020) consist of a 'Schedule DI' which can be used to claim deductions on investments made during April 1-July 31, 2020-the extended period during which the government has permitted investors to make tax-saving investments for FY2019-20, since many had been prevented from doing so before the end of the FY on March 31 due to the Covid-19 lockdowns. In this Schedule DI, taxpayers will have to provide details of their investments and expenditures, and payments for which they wish to claim a tax deduction or exemption. The claim for deductions should, however, not exceed the yearly limit applicable to the FY2019-20.

The government has also made it mandatory to file the ITR forms online for all for registered taxpayers, except those above 80 years of age and do not have any business or professional income. Effective from April 1, 2017, if you do not file your return within the due date, there will be a levy up to ₹10,000 under Section 234F. In fact, ClearTax says there is a field on the forms specifically to furnish details of fees payable under Section 234F. However, a lot of confusion still prevails amongst the salaried class on whether one should file the returns at all. Experts say that anyone who has an annual income of more than ₹2.5 lakh and under the age of 60 years has to file the ITR forms. For the age brackets above 60 years, the minimum income slab has been increased to ₹3 lakh (60-80 years old) and ₹5 lakh (above 80 years old).

There are also other criteria for filing tax returns which include details on electricity bill payments higher than ₹1 lakh or more for one year, incurring ₹2 lakh expenditure or more on overseas travel, or having deposited ₹1 crore or more in an account during that period.

One also has to keep in mind that s/he needs to show the interest on other sources of income including fixed deposits, recurring deposits, savings schemes, etc.-all of which are fully taxable. "This is often the mistake taxpayers make while reporting their income on ITR forms . While many generally assume that the tax deducted at the source (TDS) by the banks for their deposits is usually the solution. The fact is that they have to report the income from interest for instance if they are eligible to pay higher taxes, since TDS deducts only 10% of the income," Sagar Mehrotra, a tax professional said.

Other than this, taxpayers are also expected to report their capital gains from investments in stocks, mutual funds, and real estate sale. There are, of course, tax rebates under each one of these categories for short-term and long-term gains.

New requirements for ITR AY2020-21

There have been several new aspects introduced in this year's ITR returns (AY2020-21) including a new Schedule DI form, and details on high EB bills, travel expenses, etc.

Market indices continue rising, but risks remain

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank's revision of India's GDP target for the current fiscal year and its decision to keep interest rates steady and 'accommodative' has been widely welcomed by equity traders. The benchmark Sensex index has consequently topped the 45,000 point-mark for the first time while the Nifty50 reached a fresh high of 13,280 on the last session of the week. The Sensex rose 2.1 per cent and the Nifty50 2.2 per cent over the week. However, analysts also warn there are risks to the markets' onward rise and investors will need to be cautious of hurdles.

Shrikant Chouhan, executive vice president, Equity Technical Research, Kotak Securities said, "This week, Nifty 50 index would face major hurdle at 13350/13400 levels, which is nearby. However, the Bank Nifty should outperform and move to 31,000 levels without any major efforts. The strategy should be to buy on dips with a final stop loss of Nifty 50 index at 13,100."

Experts feel multiple factors, ranging from the Supreme Court verdict on the loan moratorium to developments on the Covid-19 vaccine front, will play major role in deciding which way the market would move this week.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said that the overall structure of the market continues to remain positive due to consistent FII inflows, the optimistic RBI policy outcome, and developments on the vaccine front. Investors are also likely to track progress on the US stimulus programme, which is gaining momentum again. The European Central Bank's interest rate decision this week would also be kept on the radar, Khemka added.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said that the banking sector is likely to continue to stay in focus in the coming week due to the expected SC verdict on the moratorium. "In the near-term, we feel that PSU Banks can outperform as price and valuation wise they are still much cheaper than private banks and they have not yet participated in the rally in the market and banking industry," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Assam Petrochem to open methanol plant

New Delhi: Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd will commission its methanol and formaldehyde plants by January 2021, both of which will cater primarily to the domestic fuel market. It is also planning to export products made at the new plants to export markets, PTI reported a company official as saying.

Everstone buys Calibre for ₹1,000 crore

New Delhi: India-focused private equity firm Everstone Capital has acquired a controlling stake in Calibre, a specialty ingredients player focused on pharma, nutrition, and personal care segments, in a reported ₹1,000-crore deal. Mumbai-based Calibre was founded in 1984 by Ranjit Bhavnani in Gujarat.

Daimler plans to have 350 dealerships pan-India

New Delhi: Daimler India, which recently set up 10 new touchpoints, plans to have at least 350 dealerships pan-India in the next two years. "We are the only commercial vehicles maker in the country which is expanding the dealership network. Last year we ended at 230 touchpoints and this year our target is to have more 250 touchpoints by the end of this month. Our final picture is to have minimum 350 dealerships by 2022," said MD and CEO Satyakam Arya to PTI.

Daruvala clinches first Formula Two victory

India's Jehan Daruvala, who races for Red Bull, won the Sakhir Grand Prix for his first Formula Two victory in Sakhir, Bahrain, on Sunday. Mick Schumacher, the F1-bound son of seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher, clinched the Formula Two drivers' championship title on Sunday.

ROARING TWENTIES

Pandya blitz tops collective batting effort as India clinch morale-boosting T20 series victory against Australia chasing 195

10

India are unbeaten in their last 10 T20Is. Their last defeat came against West Indies on December 8, 2019, in T'puram.

7

Since Virat Kohli became captain in T20Is in January 2017, India have won series in 7 countries — Sri Lanka, South Africa, Ireland, England, New Zealand, Australia and USA/WI.

Hardik Pandya (left) hit a match-winning 42 off 22 balls | AFP

After 4-0-30-3 on Friday, T Natarajan returned figures of 4-0-20-2 on Sunday

DOMINANT FORCE

After losing a T20I series 2-0 against Australia at home in February last year, India have been unbeaten in the shortest format, winning six series and drawing one.

RIVALS	VENUE	PERIOD	RESULT
WI	USA/WI	AUG 19	3-0
SA	INDIA	SEP 19	1-1
B'DESH	INDIA	NOV 19	2-1
WI	INDIA	DEC 19	2-1
SL	INDIA	JAN 20	2-0
NZ	NZ	JAN-FEB 20	5-0
*AUS	AUS	DEC 20	2-0

*ONE MATCH REMAINING IN THE SERIES

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

LAST Sunday at Sydney Cricket Ground, the Indian team looked like lost souls, desperately seeking answers in the wrong places. Australia had won the ODI series and their batting had made several members of the visitors' bowling line-up pedestrian. It wasn't the most auspicious of starts to a full series Down Under.

Placed in that context, wresting the T20I series at the same venue a week later is perhaps the best tonic the team would have hoped for in the short term. Confidence has just not been regained, but they have shown that their spine is pretty good — even with the absence of Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah — for a tilt at the next year's T20 World Cup. The emergence of T Natarajan, whose 2/20 kept Australia under 200, as another seaming option is a further plus point.

Considering they last lost a T20I game 365 days ago — they have won 10 matches and four series since that reverse against West Indies on December 8 — they are on an imposing run.

Why are they, even if question marks persist about the lack of a sixth bowler and the middle-order being a touch featherweight, on this run?

Like many previous instances in the last two years, it's a simple answer. Irrespective of whether they are setting a target or chasing, they like to preserve wickets, take the innings deep and reduce the contest to a mano a mano confrontation with the bowlers at the death.

And when you have someone like Hardik Pandya, that strategy works more often than not. He's unlike most modern T20 greats. He's slight, isn't a 360-degree player and likes to play himself in. What he does have is confidence and unnatural ability to clear the ropes anywhere in front of the wicket.

Under the SCG lights, he engineered a thrilling heist. Pandya walked in with the equation reading 75 off 38. When Kohli was gone, it was 46 from 23. Pandya, eight off six at that point, had seen enough. His next 16 balls had three fours, two sixes, four twos as well as a single at the end of the 19th over to retain strike. It was a 101 in the art of finishing, reminiscent of the MS Dhoni era of chasemanship.

> My game is always around the confidence which I carry, it has that fine line where I back myself and not become overconfident.
>
> Hardik Pandya, India all-rounder

"My game is always around the confidence which I carry, it has that fine line where I back myself and not become overconfident," Pandya said after the match. That he even turned down a single with Shreyas Iyer at the other end was a representation of this confidence.

He also revealed that his work on Sunday was, at least partly, down to extensive planning he made. "My entire focus during lockdown was wanting to finish games when it mattered most," he said. "The talk between Krunal (Pandya) and me was always, focussing on finishing games. I am not somebody who is too bothered if I don't score runs. If it's my time to do and the team wins... I'm the happiest..."

Yet, the 27-year-old is now India's leading run-scorer after five innings in two formats (his 268 is miles ahead of Kohli's 222). So, it was tempting to ask if he could potentially stay back for the Test series and play as a specialist batsman. "It's a different ball game," he said. "I don't mind, the call is with the management... I don't think I can say much."

He also had praise for Natarajan's character. The southpaw initially came in as a net-bowler but has now picked more wickets than any other Indian. "I'm impressed with him because he keeps it simple. When you ask him to bowl a yorker, he bowls a yorker. When you ask him to bowl a wide slower ball, he does that, that shows character. There's a lesson that if you keep things simple in life, it benefits you."

Pandya should know, when he was up against Daniel Sams in the final over, he repeatedly told himself 'matter of two big hits'. After two losses to begin the tour, India, and Pandya, have delivered several hits to win the T20I leg of the series. Even if there is one more remaining (on Tuesday), the focus will shift to Adelaide for the first Test on December 17.

Brief scores: Australia 194/5 in 20 ovs (Wade 58, Smith 46; Natarajan 2/20) **lost to** India 195/4 in 19.4 ovs (Dhawan 52, Pandya 42 n.o, Kohli 40).

Rahane and Pujara among runs

PTI @ Sydney

AJINKYA Rahane geared up for the four-Test series against Australia with a resolute century, steering India A to 237 for 8 against Australia A on the opening day of the first warm-up mach on Sunday.

Captain Rahane (108 batting) and Cheteshwar Pujara (54 off 140), who will be India's batting mainstay once Virat Kohli goes on paternity leave after the first Test, shared a 76-run stand for the fourth wicket after India A were reduced to 40 for three.

India A's beginning was horrible, with openers Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill departing without scoring. Coming in at six for two, Hanuma Vihari played 51 balls before getting out for 15. The partnership between Pujara and Rahane steadied the innings. Pujara and Vihari were playing their first competitive game after the lockdown. Others were part of the IPL and had some match time under their belt.

After Pujara's dismissal, India A lost Wriddhiman Saha for zero and Ravichandran Ashwin for five. From 128 for six, Rahane was involved in another repair job, this time with Kuldeep Yadav, who made 15. The seventh-wicket partnership was worth 69 runs. Umesh Yadav struck 24 off 18 balls with four fours and a six.

Rahane struggled a bit before reaching his fifty. But he held the innings together with his 228-ball knock which contained 16 fours, other than that hit over the fence. The visitors fielded players who are not part of the T20 squad. Since there were two keepers and just two pacers at their disposal, Rishabh Pant was left out.

Brief scores: India A 237/8 (Rahane 108 n.o, Pujara 54, Pattinson 3/58) vs Aus A.

Mumbai attack too good for Odisha, Goa secure first win

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

TOUTED as one of the favourites for the ISL title this season, Mumbai City FC justified that billing with a 2-0 win over Odisha FC on Sunday. FC Goa beat Kerala Blasters 3-1 in the second match of the day.

It was a dominant and attacking display, which would make Mumbai coach Sergio Lobera happy, considering that the Spaniard is an advocate of such a brand of football.

The Islanders did it in style, with first-half goals from Bartholomew Ogbeche and Rowllin Borges securing their third straight win. Mumbai impressed with their possession-based football, which stood at 66 per cent. They had 604 passes while their opponents managed 262. With midfielders like Ahmed Jahouh and his ability to distribute far and wide, such numbers are understandable.

Mumbai's Bartholomew Ogbeche converts a penalty against Odisha | ISL

When Mumbai players had the ball on their feet, it was not those lazy back passes. Balls were sprayed to the wings and players were willing to make those runs into the box. When balls were whipped inside the box, they had numbers in the danger area.

It is also about the quality of players, which makes Mumbai an impressive unit. Lobera benched Adam Fondre, who has three goals this season. He was not missed, with Ogbeche going strong up front. The Nigerian put his team ahead with a neat penalty in the 30th minute. Mumbai doubled their lead with Borges' header. The team moves to top of table, having played a match more than ATK Mohun Bagan.

Odisha, who had problems in the final third in previous matches, did not create many chances. Even bringing in Brazilian Marcelinho in the second half did not help despite the midfielder linking well with the attackers. Odisha are yet to post a win this season.

Meanwhile, Igor Angulo and Jorge Ortiz Mendoza put Goa 2-0 ahead before Vicente Gomez pulled one back. Angulo scored another in added-on time. It was Goa's first win and took them to fifth with five points from four matches. Kerala are ninth with two from four.

Monday's match: Jamshedpur vs ATKMB.

EXPRESS READ

Virus outbreak cancels SA-Eng ODI

CAPE TOWN: Two members of the England touring party in South Africa have returned "unconfirmed positive tests" for Covid-19, the ECB said Sunday, as the first ODI was cancelled because of a virus outbreak at the hotel where both teams are staying. The ECB didn't say if the two members were players or officials. It said the two positive tests came after an additional round of testing. The remainder of the tour is now in doubt.

NZ extend unbeaten home run with big win

HAMILTON: New Zealand stretched their unbeaten run at home to 14 matches with a win in the first Test against the West Indies on Sunday after ending a battling rearguard 104 by Jermaine Blackwood. West Indies were all out before lunch on Day 4 for 247 after making only 138 in first innings in reply to New Zealand's 519/7. Alzarri Joseph made 86. Left-armer Neil Wagner took four wickets.

Rio, Ashish star in FEI WJC south zone

BENGALURU: Kekhriesilie Rio of United Riders Barn of Bangalore emerged victorious in category A of FEI World Jumping Challenge (FEI WJC) south zone at Embassy International Riding School on Sunday. EIRS' **Ashish Limaye** and Chennai Equitation Centre's Abdeali Masaliya were joint champions in Category B. Even in category C, Ashish starred as he was declared joint leaders alongside Eashwar, Abbas Bharmal, Arjun Kanoi and Balaji Vijay Shankar.

SRFI chief elected world body's VP

CHENNAI: Debendranath Sarangi, president of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), was unanimously elected as one of the three vice-presidents of the World Squash Federation (WSF). The election was held virtually at the AGM on Saturday evening. Zena Wooldridge of England was elected president. "I feel honoured to be have been elected to this post and I will strive to implement new initiatives at the WSF," said Sarangi.

Waugh wants neutral doctor for concussion

SYDNEY: Former Australia batsman Mark Waugh believes ICC should consider appointing a neutral doctor to assess players hit on the head and make a concussion decision. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was replaced by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal as a "concussion substitute" after he was hit on head in the first T20I in Canberra on Friday. Chahal, who scalped three wickets, played a major role in India's win. "Something the ICC has to look at is whether you need a neutral appointed doctor to make the concussion decision," Waugh said on Fox Cricket. "Obviously, the team doctor of India made that ruling. I'm not saying he did anything wrong, but I think ICC need to look at employing a medical officer or doctor who is neutral to make the decision." **Agencies**

RELIEF FOR REAL

Lionel Messi's Barcelona suffered a fourth La Liga defeat, 1-2 at promoted Cadiz, while Real Madrid eased pressure on Zinedine Zidane with their first league win since October following a 1-0 victory at Sevilla. Leaders Atletico Madrid moved two points ahead of Real Sociedad after beating Real Valladolid 2-0. Third-placed Real are six points off the lead, having played an extra game. Seventh-placed Barcelona are 12 points back. Barcelona lost despite the return of Messi, who had been rested in the Champions League midweek match. They paid for a defensive mistake in the second half. Clement Lenglet misplayed a ball inside the area and goalkeeper Marc-Andr' ter Stegen wasn't able to fully clear it, allowing Alvaro Negredo to find the open net for the winnning goal.

BARCA BLEED AS BIG BOYS WIN

Chelsea, Manchester United and Juventus staged comeback wins, Real Madrid ended a winless streak in Spanish league, but Ronald Koeman was back under fire after another Barcelona setback. Talking points from European leagues...

DORTMUND, BAYERN HELD

Borussia Dortmund stumbled again in Bundesliga, with a 1-1 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt. American teenager Gio Reyna scored an equaliser for the visitors, but they missed injured striker Erling Haaland. **Thomas Mueller** netted twice as leaders Bayern Munich came from behind to draw 3-3 at home to RB Leipzig in top-of-the-table clash. Dortmund are third, four points behind Bayern.

JUVENTUS MOVE TO THIRD

Juventus came from behind to beat Torino 2-1 with US midfielder **Weston McKennie** scoring for the first time since he joined the Italian champions on loan, but Inter Milan retained second place in Serie A. After McKennie's goal, Leonardo Bonucci's header in the 89th minute gave Juve victory and put them on 20 points from 10 games. They are third.

DAY OF COMEBACKS

Manchester United roared back to beat West Ham 3-1 in the Premier League after a three-goal blitz from Paul Pogba, Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford in a 13-minute spell. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men, who have won nine successive league games, are fifth in the table, one point ahead of Manchester City. Chelsea came from 0-1 down to win 3-1 to be placed second. Tottenham moved to the top after a 2-0 win against Arsenal in the derby.

SELECT RESULTS

Sevilla 0-1 Real Madrid; Atletico Madrid 2-0 Real Valladolid; Cadiz 2-1 Barcelona.

Eintracht Frankfurt 1-1 Borussia Dortmund; Bayern Munich 3-3 RB Leipzig.

Juventus 2-1 Torino; Inter Milan 3-1 Bologna; Roma 0-0 Sassuolo.

West Ham 1-3 United; Chelsea 3-1 Leeds; Sheffield 1-2 Leicester; Spurs 2-0 Arsenal.

China on Sunday successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite which can take high-resolution pictures of ground objects across the globe. The satellite, Gaofen-14, was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan province, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Hayabusa2 drops asteroid samples

Probe left Ryugu, about 300 mn km from Earth, in 2019; after delivery, it set off on another expedition

SPACE

TOKYO: Japanese space officials said they are excited about the return of a capsule that landed safely in the Australian Outback on Sunday while carrying soil samples from a distant asteroid, and that they are eager to begin analysing the "treasure" inside.

The capsule's delivery by Japan's Hayabusa2 spacecraft completes its six-year sample-return mission and opens the door for research into finding clues to the origin of the solar system and life on Earth.

"We were able to land the treasure box" onto the sparsely populated Australian desert of Woomera as planned, said Yuichi Tsuda, Hayabusa2 project manager at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, adding that the capsule was in perfect shape. "I really look forward to opening it and looking inside."

A member of the Japanese space agency retrieves a capsule dropped by Hayabusa2 in Woomera, southern Australia, on Sunday | AP

The capsule will be packed in a container as soon as its preliminary treatment at an Australian lab is finished and brought back to Japan this week, Satoru Nakazawa, a project sub-manager, said during an online news conference from Woomera.

Hayabusa2 left the asteroid Ryugu, about 300 million kilometres from Earth, a year ago. After it released the capsule on Saturday, it set off on a new expedition to another distant asteroid.

Tsuda said Hayabusa2's completion of its inter-planetary round trip is the world's first and that he hoped to use the expertise gained in future planetary exploration, possibly MMX mission to Mars' moons beginning in 2024.

Scientists say they believe the samples, especially ones taken from under the asteroid's surface, contain valuable data unaffected by space radiation.

The researchers are particularly interested in organic materials in the samples to find out how they are distributed in the solar system and related to life on Earth. "And then the sample will start to tell its stories and reveal to us some wonderful signs about how water arrived on our Earth and how we even may have been formed, such as our organics, carbon-based animals, humans and plants," said Megan Clark, head of the Australian Space Agency, who was also at the news conference.

Vaccinate diabetics first!

RESEARCH

Researchers have urged policymakers to prioritise vaccination for individuals with diabetes as such people, once infected with Covid-19, are three times more likely to have a severe illness or require hospitalisation compared with people without diabetes. "Our data supports prioritising individuals with type 1 or individuals with type 2 diabetes for immunisation alongside other high-risk medical conditions that increase the risk of getting very sick with Covid-19, such as heart or lung disease," said Justin Gregory, lead investigator from Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

GOLDEN FIELD

Villagers ride past a mustard field, on the outskirts of Amritsar, on Sunday | PTI

Immune system's needs for protection against Covid decoded

HEALTH

BOSTON: Scientists have assessed the novel coronavirus infection in monkeys and found that the immune system's T cells may contribute to protection against the virus if antibody responses are suboptimal, an advance which may aid in the development of vaccines for Covid-19.

The study, published in the journal *Nature*, shed light on the role of antibodies and immune cells in protection against SARS-CoV-2 — the virus that causes Covid-19.

"In this study, we define the role of antibodies versus T cells in protection against Covid-19 in monkeys. We report that a relatively low antibody titer — the concentration of antibodies in the blood — is needed for protection," said study co-author Dan Barouch from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC).

Earlier studies had suggested that SARS-CoV-2 infection protects rhesus macaques from re-exposure.

Microwave radiation likely made American diplomats in Cuba ill

RESEARCH

WASHINGTON: A new report by a National Academy of Sciences committee has found that "directed" microwave radiation is the likely cause of illnesses among American diplomats in Cuba and China.

The study commissioned by the State Department and released Saturday is the latest attempt to find a cause for the mysterious illnesses that started to emerge in late 2016 among US personnel in Havana.

The study found that "directed, pulsed radio frequency energy appears to be the most plausible" explanation for symptoms that included intense head pressure, dizziness and cognitive difficulties.

It found this explanation was more likely than other previously considered causes such as tropical disease or psychological issues.

The study did not name a source for the energy and did not say it came as the result of an attack, though it did note that previous research on this type of injury was done in the former Soviet Union.

In its report, the 19-member committee noted that it faced significant challenges in trying to get to the bottom of the medical mystery. Among them, not everyone reported the same symptoms and the National Academy of Sciences research did not have access to all the previous studies on the illnesses, some of which are classified. "The committee found these cases quite concerning, in part because of the plausible role of directed, pulsed radiofrequency energy as a mechanism, but also because of the significant suffering and debility that has occurred in some of these individuals," said committee chairman David Relman, a professor of medicine at Stanford University.

Between late 2016 and May 2018, several US and Canadian diplomats in Havana complained of health problems from an unknown cause. One US government count put the number of American personnel affected at 26.

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DAY'S DIARY

Apollo 17

US-crewed spaceflight moon mission Apollo 17 was launched on this day in 1972. It was the final flight of the Apollo program

LAST MEN ON MOON

Apollo 17 astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt were the last humans to walk on the Moon. The mission successfully concluded on December 19, 1972

LANDING SITE

The lunar landing site was the Taurus-Littrow highlands and valley area. It was picked as there were rocks both older and younger than those previously returned from other Apollo missions

NIGHT LAUNCH

This was the first US-manned launch in darkness, and the huge Saturn V rocket treated viewers to a spectacular launch in the history of the US space program

Yasha Shivakumar to star in Shivappa

PG 4

MOVE ASIDE WFH, WFR IS HERE

City restaurants are abuzz with meetings and presentations, unlike the pre-pandemic times when heading to an eatery meant taking a break from office work

VIDYA IYENGAR

EVERY now and then, techie Pruthvi B S intersperses her remote working schedule with some in-person meets with her colleagues. With work from home becoming the norm for the IT folk, Pruthvi and her six colleagues have found BLR Brewing Co - Kitchen and Bar, Electronics City, an alternate office setting where they can connect. "It's spacious, there are safety measures being followed, and most importantly, there's a steady internet connection. If required, we request for the volume to be reduced when we're doing official meetings," says the 30-year-old techie.

In these novel times as the F and B industry struggles to find their feet, and is working on the double to win back the confidence of customers, the city's restaurants and bars have turned into office spaces. With music that is not intrusive, Chetan Hegde, partner, 1522, often spots office meetings in progress, presentations being held and full-blown work discussions taking place. Their pubs, which range in size from 3,000 sqft to 14,000 sqft, have seen a 30-40 per cent increase in the number of customers coming in to use the tables as workstations. In their Residency Road outlet they have installed a coffee machine, and offer quick bites like sandwiches which come along with complimentary Wifi. "We haven't yet worked out a package. The way we look at is, if customers are creating a comfort zone with our brand, then their first choice while stepping out would be our space," says Hegde.

Despite the long ride from her house in Frazer Town, Lakshmi Rebecca, founder, Red Bangle, a video production platform, looks forward to working at the spacious Uru Brewpark in JP Nagar. "The tables are distanced so there's no worry when the mask has to be taken off. With the pandemic putting great emphasis on the open air space, I find this a great option," says Lakshmi who usually heads there post lunch and spends about 3-4 hours at a stretch.

Go Native has also been witnessing a steady trickle of 'office-goers' across its four outlets in the city. It charges ₹300 for Wifi and the first cup of coffee. "There's still a lot of hesitancy towards going to a restaurant. Our idea is only an attempt for loyal customers to come back," says spokesperson Sneh Chawla. Professionals love the fact that you can order a cup of coffee and spend as long as you want, with no one complaining. "You can just find a sunny spot for yourself and stay as long as you like," says Meetali Kutty, head of marketing, Azure Hospitality, that runs Sly Granny, which is becoming a popular spot for professionals in and around Indiranagar.

Pruthvi BS

With monotony having set in with the work from home norm, young professionals are choosing to work out of restaurants and pubs

BLURRING BOUNDARIES

Gender Bender, which goes online this year, is back with new works that explore the ever-expanding spectrum of gender through art, dance, films and more

SIMRAN AHUJA

A film on the *launda naach* of Bihar, a dance performance that explores the pain felt by the hijra community, an anthology of Kannada stories about womxn's sex, sexuality and desire. Gender Bender may have taken the online route this year, but the festival retains its promise to showcase new works of art around gender, as a concept, discourse, construct, and as art itself. The sixth edition, which is a project of Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore and Sandbox Collective, became available for viewing on Friday.

This year, the jury decided to award 15 grantees, instead of their usual 10. "We realised the need to support the creation of work in this rather difficult time," says Nimi Ravindran, the co-founder and artistic director of Sandbox Collective. She adds, "We have not made it mandatory to create any work for online showcasing, however it is in the nature of some works to be shown online, so we will ensure that the grantees and their work are shown in whatever form is possible." The team received over 170 applications from artists from across the country, as well as Mexico, Germany, Finland and Australia. Of the 15 selected, most are Indian, except one each from Bangladesh and Germany. All the proposals selected take the conversation on gender forward, through dance, poetry, music, films, theatre, photography and visual arts.

Rashmi Ravikumar

> **"We have not made it mandatory to create any work for online showcasing, however it is in the nature of some works to be shown online, so we will ensure that the grantees and their work are shown in whatever form is possible"**
>
> Nimi Ravindran, co-founder and artistic director, Sandbox Collective

Take, for instance, Satchit Puranik and Pranav Patadiya. They started an art and activism lab called Chikka Dodda Art Lab. Their project, called Mard Hamdard is a collage film that builds onto the footage of other Indian films (mainstream Mumbai cinema and beyond) to demystify and deconstruct the portrayals of non-toxic masculinity in 107 years of Indian cinema. Puranik hopes the viewer's takeaway from this is two-fold. "One is rediscovering Indian cinema through the prism of Judith Butler's gender performativity theory. The other is to inspire others to look at the collage form as a new medium to make an essay documentary," he says.

Rashmi Ravikumar has directed a set of six performative stories in Kannada on sex, sexuality and desire, from the experiences of women, women identifying or non-binary people. The theatreperson, who performs in both Kannada and English, says such topics are difficult to explore in the former language due to lack of words. "For example, we had to search online for the Kannada translations of 'clitoris' and 'orgasm'. Since the audience, like us, might not know these words too, we had to figure out a narrative that explains them easily. For other words, like tampon or vibrator, we had to coin our own translations," explains Ravikumar. The project, called Amma Makkalu Ellinda Bartaave? (Mommy where do babies come from?), also involves one playwright, two musicians and 11 performers, who have also devised and written the stories. Each episode explores a different theme, like pro-choice vs pro-life, casual sex, body shaming, self-pleasure, etc, through the lens of the ego states. "Sometimes I find that there is more judgment exploring such topics in a language that's not English. But I feel at home in Kannada so I wanted to find a way to talk about sex and sexuality in this language," says Ravikumar.

The festival can be viewed on sandboxcollective.org

Manoj Paswan, an artist, in grantee Aamir Rabbani's project on Launda Nach

WHAT TO EXPECT

Scavenging by C G Salamander and Samidha Gunjal: A non-fiction comic that aims to educate people about the practice of manual scavenging

The Queer Muslim Monthly by Reya Ahmed: It will collate video installations, comics, illustrations and interviews of and by queer Muslim artists in the form of an online graphic newspaper

Resonxnce - Dissonxnce by Shruthi Veena Vishwanath and Sylvia Hinz: A musical diary by two female musicians, made as a response to the pandemic

Money matters: Meet B'luru's wealthiest women

EXPRESS FEATURES

Six women from Bengaluru have featured on the 'Kotak Wealth Hurun – Leading Wealthy Women' - a compilation of the wealthiest women in India. Kotak Wealth Management, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Hurun India announced the launch of the second edition recently. The listing is based on the net worth of women as on Sept. 30. The 2020 edition of the report focuses on women who play an active role in their family business, entrepreneurs and professionals.

The average wealth of the women on this list is about ₹2,725 crore. The threshold for the ranking is ₹100 crore. From Bengaluru, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon is ranked second on the list with a wealth of ₹36,600 crore. She ranks second in the list of 100 women on the list. Leading the way is Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies with a net worth of ₹54,850 crore, and following Mazumdar-Shaw closely at third position is Leena Gandhi Tewari, chairperson of USV Private Limited, with a net worth of ₹21,340 crore.

Also included are entrepreneurs Divya Gokulnath of Byju's (Think & Learn) with a wealth of ₹3,490 crore, Aditi Avasthi of Embibe, and Saroja Lakshmi Yeramilli of August Jewellery. Ambiga Subramanian with a wealth of ₹1,690 crore and Githa Shankar and Nirupa Shankar of Brigade Enterprises with ₹740 crore also feature on the list. With 32 individuals, Mumbai tops the list followed by New Delhi (20) and Hyderabad (10).

"One of the defining developments over the last couple of decades is the giant strides that women have taken as wealth creators. For India to achieve its aspirational target to be a US$5 trillion economy by 2025, women will continue to play a crucial role as wealth creators in order to achieve that goal," Oisharya Das, CEO - Wealth Management, Kotak Mahindra Bank said.

Anas Rahman Junaid, MD & chief researcher, Hurun India, said, "Their stories deserve to be shared and studied. What is it that makes them successful? How did they do it? I hope this list can inspire more women to become entrepreneurs, run businesses or lead companies."

Beyond the canvas

A radio series based on the life of K K Hebbar has prominent B'lureans like Girish Kasaravalli and Narayana Murthy sharing their perspectives on the artist

MONIKA MONALISA

To the world, he was K K Hebbar, the eminent artist who, inclined to the arts from a young age, made a name for himself in Mumbai. But for his daughter, Ranjini Prasanna, he was much more than that. A father who valued family and discipline more than anything else is how Prasanna would like to remember him. Some of these lesser-known aspects will be brought out in this radio series, the brainchild of the K.K. Hebbar Art Foundation. Called *Kala Tapaswi K.K. Hebbar*, the show will air at 2pm on All India Radio, till December 25.

"In today's busy life, there is hardly any time for art. We picked radio as a medium because sometimes, more than reading or going through the art, it's easier to listen to stories to understand someone's life," adds Prasanna, a trustee of the foundation.

KK Hebbar

The series is in Kannada and features 25 eminent personalities, like Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy, cinema personality Girish Kasaravalli, and others, who reflect on the influence that Hebbar had on society. "We kept it in Kannada because we want it to reach the masses. This has been a six-month process to reach out for interviews. There are many like Girish Karnad who was an ardent admirer of his work but, unfortunately, is no more with us," adds Prasanna. Remembering her father as a strict disciplinarian, and a family man, Prassana says, "He was never a sweet father, he had his disciplinarian ways. He was strict about the family bonding time. Dinner was at 8pm and we had to be present for it, no matter how busy our day was," says Prasanna, adding that initially it was difficult for her to appreciate these rules, but understands them better now.

As children, Prasanna recalls growing up with a television even though it was rare for the times. But there was a curfew on timings imposed by her father. "During summer vacations, my father gave us fun assignments, like researching on various flowers and their origins, categorising them and making a booklet out of it," says Prasanna. As a child, Prasanna learnt the ropes of painting from her father. "More than anything, he taught me how to observe a painting. One day he showed me his work and asked the place which was depicted. I replied, 'Ajanta cave.' He further asked me why I mentioned so. I then realised he had drawn mountains in the sleeping Buddha style which is why I said it was Ajanta caves," recalls Prasanna.

Ranjini Prasanna

> **We kept it in Kannada because we want it to reach the masses. This has been a six-month process to reach out for interviews**
> — Ranjini Prasanna, KK Hebbar's daughter

ART FOR ALL

Wings Unlimited, a five-day global event for Artabilities 4 All (A4A) will commemorate the International Day of Disabled Artists. It will feature visual and performing artists who are differently abled from across four continents and eight countries. For the first time over 45 artists will be featured on one global platform ranging from remote villages to buzzing cities like London and Los Angeles. **Details:** Facebook page of Artabilities4All

WINTER FASHION

Check out Naushad Ali's fall/winter collection, which explores statement collars, vintage sleeves, midi-length dresses and silk blouses. **When:** Ongoing **Where:** ffolio, Vittal Mallya Road

WINTER MENU

Bring in winter with some warm food for the soul, like khao suey and rajma ghee khichdi. Check out the new coffee menu on offer too. **Where:** Street Storyss **When:** Ongoing

CHRISTMAS HOMEDECOR

Bring in the spirit of Christmas with festive-inspired cushions, table runners, placemats and napkins. Shipping across India. **Where:** theyellowdwelling.com **Price:** ₹100 onwards

THIS ART EXHIBITION brings together works of F N Souza, Ram Kumar and K Laxma Goud. At Gallery Time & Space, Lavelle Road, from Dec. 11-13

Holiday at home

Check out the KFC Facaytion, a travel hack for a vacay from home. The kit includes items from their international menu– UK's Dirty Louisiana Burger, Thailand's Ghost Pepper Wings, Australia's popular Zinger Mozzarella Burger and USA's Chicken & Waffles. This comes with holiday essentials such as passports, luggage tags, and VR headset. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Art show

Art.Is presents VIII X VIII = VIII, an exhibition at DakshinaChitra. On display will be works by artists Asma Menon, Kavitha Prasad, Thejo Menon, Gita Hudson, Jacob Jebaraj and Shailesh Bo. The exhibition will be on till December 30. **For details, visit:** www.dakshinachitra.net

Designed diapers

SuperBottoms celebrates its fifth anniversary by presenting Auntie Alie by Alicia Souza, an exclusive, limited-edition collection of free-sized cloth diapers with Alicia's Souza's signature illustrations in adorable prints and vibrant colours. SuperBottoms is also launching its monogram print to mark their cloth diapering journey. **For details, visit:** www.superbottoms.com

Men of Platinum

The latest collection by Platinum Guild India's (PGI) Men of Platinum range, celebrates all the men who rose to the challenge and faced their moment of truth. The 'Men of Platinum' range of platinum jewellery pieces for men like wrist wear, chains and pendants are now available across leading jewellery retail stores across India. Priced from ₹75,000 onwards. **For details, visit:** https://menofplatinum.com/collection/

Exclusive collection

Evoluzione presents 'Chitra' by designer Mrunalini Rao, an exclusive collection of bridal couture. Apparel from this collection features hand-painted prints, curvy lines, imaginary shapes of fruits, flowers, butterflies through detailed hand embroidery that takes you back to a royal world of grandeur and intricacy. **For details, call** 9500028810 or 9884265292

New on the menu

Mamagoto offers a lip-smacking range of beverages and dishes with a fun spin, creating a new culinary experience. It believes in mixing it up and surprising their patrons with new inclusions to their menu, including Pop Rocks & Monsoon Sangria pitchers, Chiang Mai Train Station Noodles, Stir-Fried Udon Noodles, The Laksa Tribute, Mama's Spicy Ramen Bowl, Street Chicken Satay, Shrimp with Dried Red Chilli, Corn Fritter Balls and Crispy Chilli Potatoes and more. **For details, call:** 7358775441

One from the Paradise

Jewellery brand Opalina introduces Garden of Eden collection. Inspired by the exotic flora and fauna of 'Paradise' this collection brings to life the textures, touch and feel of the magic of nature through velvety soft petals, radiantly ridged leaves and the feathery feel of the birds of Paradise. Priced from ₹10,000. **Available at:** https://www.opalinajewellery.com/

Pamper your skin

Up your skincare routine with these bamboo sheet masks, which are skin as well as environment-friendly. These are suitable for all skin types. Price: ₹149. **Available at:** mamaearth.in; Amazon, Nykaa, Flipkart

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

TOMATO CHEESE MELT

INGREDIENTS

- **Mozzarella cheese:** 1 cup, shredded ■ **Tomato:** 1, sliced into four ■ **Whole wheat bread:** 2 slices
- **Italian seasoning** (optional) ■ **Salt**

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 180 degrees C.
- Divide tomato slices and cheese evenly on top of bread slices. Sprinkle seasonings, if desired.
- Bake in the oven until the cheese melts. Serve immediately.

– Anyka Rao, Delhi

FIT BIT

VAYU MUDRA

(GESTURE OF AIR)

In Sanskrit, 'vayu' means 'air' and 'mudra' means 'gesture'. It is a yogic hand gesture believed to help regulate and reduce the air element within the body. The fire element resides in the thumb and the air element in the index finger. The air element is suppressed by the fire of the thumb in this mudra. It is associated with the vata dosha, thus, it can be helpful for those who suffer from aggravated vata or who are of the vata dosha constitution. Vayu increases the versatility of the mind and is a very essential element for blood purification. Long-term practice will produce best results for living a happy, healthy life.

STEPS

- Sit in any comfortable posture, your hands on the knees, palm facing upwards.
- Meditation postures like Padmasana, Siddhasana, Vajrasana, etc. are ideal.
- Close your eyes and take some deep breaths with the awareness on the breathing process.
- Fold the index fingers and press it with your respective thumbs.
- The rest of the fingers should be kept extended as much as possible.
- Perform this pose for 35 minutes at a stretch every day or for 10 to 12 minutes three times a day.
- This need not necessarily be done on an empty stomach. It can be practised on a full stomach, too. You may opt to do this while standing, sitting or lying down.

BENEFITS

- Recommended to calm a stressed nervous system.
- Soothes the pain associated with rheumatism, sciatica or gout, tremors and vertigo.
- Reduces Parkinson's disease.
- Helps in pain management.
- Relaxes muscles and overcharged endocrine glands.
- Increases memory power and sharpens the brain.
- Relieves psychological disorders like hysteria, anger and depression.

LIMITATIONS

- Avoid wearing tight clothes.
- Open and airy place is advisable over closed ones.
- Don't try to over bend your index finger or apply excessive pressure with your thumb.
- Keeping the back straight helps prana flow.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

DEAR STRANGER
Dear Stranger by author Ashish Bagrecha offers a daily dose of poems, letters, philosophies, and perspective about love, life, the universe, hope and healing.
- On Spotify

22 YARNS BY GAURAV KAPUR
A podcast for cricket lovers from around the world, captained by Gaurav Kapur alongside a wide variety of cricket journalists, analysts, players, and retired cricket legends who will dig into cricket's most beautiful stories and anecdotes from both on and off the field.
- On Apple Podcasts

LIFETIME: AAYIRATHIL ORUVAN MGR
This podcast brings to you the story of Maruthur Gopalan Ramachandran, late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. It captures the essence of various aspects of his life – love, ambition, films, politics, controversies, and hard work.
- On Spotify

GHOST MAPS: TRUE SOUTHEAST ASIAN HORROR STORIES
Ghost Maps follows a mysterious narrator as he chronicles the supernatural in Singapore and around Southeast Asia. Inspired by stories generously shared by real people.
- On Spotify

SIMPLY KEN
Hosted by stand-up comedian Kenny Sebastian, this podcast is about tackling the weekly conflicts of a comedian. From handling negativity to churning new content, the comedian weaves in his observational humour to make this a strictly no advice podcast.
- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

KADHALA KADHALA
Two friends, Ramalingam and Sundaralingam, both with the alias of Lingam, create a comedy of errors and consequent chaos with their girlfriends, Sundari and Janaki in order to protect their love and marriage.
- Cast: Kamal Haasan, Soundarya, Prabhu Deva, Rambha

THREE ROSES
When Charulatha, Nandhu and Pooja return from abroad, they find out that their friend has been arrested for travelling on a fake passport. After learning that she is innocent, they decide to help her.
- Cast: Rambha, Jyothika, Laila, Rekha Vedavyas, Vivek

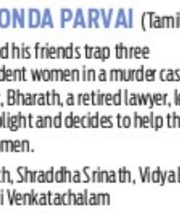
JANAKI RAMAN
A man keen on getting his daughters married to two brothers, who happen to be sworn to bachelorhood, comes up with a unique plan. Confusion arises when four brides turn up dressed alike at the venue.
- Cast: Nagma, Rambha, Manivannan, Sarathkumar

BANDA PARAMASIVAM
Cheran and Pandiyan are stepbrothers who hate each other and their respective daughters continue their enmity. Their lives take a turn when two petty thieves enter their houses posing as rich grooms.
- Cast: Prabhu, Rambha, Manivannan, Abbas

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 THE RADICAL ACT OF CHOOSING COMMON GROUND BY NISHA ANAND
To achieve lasting change sometimes requires the hard, even radical, choice of partnering with people you'd least expect. Justice reform advocate Nisha Anand shares her story of working with her ideological opposite to make history and save lives – and urges us all to widen our circles in order to make progress with purpose.



2 HOW TO LEAD IN A CRISIS BY AMY C EDMONDSON
Humility, transparency and urgency are the keys to successfully steering an organisation – big or small – through the challenges that come your way. Leadership expert Amy C Edmondson provides clear advice and examples to help any leader rise to the occasion.

3 3 STEPS TO STOP REMOTE WORK BURNOUT BY MORRA AARONS
Podcast host and writer Morra Aarons-Mele shares honest advice on what you can learn from the introverts in your life about protecting your energy and your limits.

4 WHAT IT TAKES TO CRUSH A PANDEMIC BY JOHANNA BENESTY
In this illuminating talk, global health strategist Johanna Benesty explores the various barriers to equitable access – making sure COVID-19 therapeutics are available to all – and shares a creative approach to research and development that could ensure vaccines are rolled out fairly, efficiently and at a global scale.

5 TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WOMEN, YOU ARE THE ROOTS OF CHANGE BY GLORIA STEINEM
Activist and author Gloria Steinem is an icon of the global feminist movement. She urges future generations of women to advocate for each other in solidarity – and discover the freedom found in companionship and community.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

LOVE MOCKTAIL (Kannada)
After rescuing a woman, Adi reminisces about his love life and tells her about all the heartbreaks he endured in his quest to find his true love.
CAST: Krishna, Milana Nagaraj, Amrutha Iyengar
- WATCH ON: Amazon Prime

BICCHOO KA KHEL (Hindi, series)
What happens when a young student loses his father to a cover-up? Can he find it in himself to forget the past and move on, or is revenge the only thing that can give him some peace of mind?
Cast: Divyendu Sharma, Anshul Chauhan, Syed Zeeshan Qadri
- Watch on: Zee5

COLOUR PHOTO (Telugu)
A tragic-comedy that is set in the 90s between two different personalities coming from different backgrounds that change their lives in a tale of love.
Cast: Suhas, Chandini Chowdary, Suneel
- Watch on: Aha

CHINTU KA BIRTHDAY (Hindi)
During US invasion of Iraq, some illegal migrants are waiting to get back home to India. As one such family prepares to celebrate the 6th birthday of their youngest member Chintu, their kind-hearted Iraqi landlord lends them a helping hand.
Cast: Vinay Pathak, Tillotama Shome, Seema Bhargava, Vedant Chibber, Bisha Chaturvedi
- Watch on: Zee5

BUCHINAIDU KANDRIGA (Telugu)
Childhood sweethearts Balu and Swapna find their relationship in grave hurdles after facing strong opposition from their families due to their differing social status. In a bid to unite above all else, they elope, only to find their families still on their tail.
Cast: Munna, Drishika Chander, Ravi Varma, Subbarao, Prabhavathi, Pavithra
- Watch on: Aha

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NERKONDA PARVAI (Tamil)
Adhik and his friends trap three independent women in a murder case. However, Bharath, a retired lawyer, learns of their plight and decides to help the three women.
Cast: Ajith, Shraddha Srinath, Vidya Balan, Abhirami Venkatachalam
- Watch on: Zee5

POPCORN MONKEY TIGER (Kannada)
While circumstances lead Seena, a mechanic, to become a dreaded gangster of the underworld, Devi, a popcorn seller, turns into someone she can no longer recognise due to her reality.
Cast: Nivedhitha, Sapthami Gowda, Dhananjay, Amrutha Iyengar
- Watch on: Zee5

FOREIGN

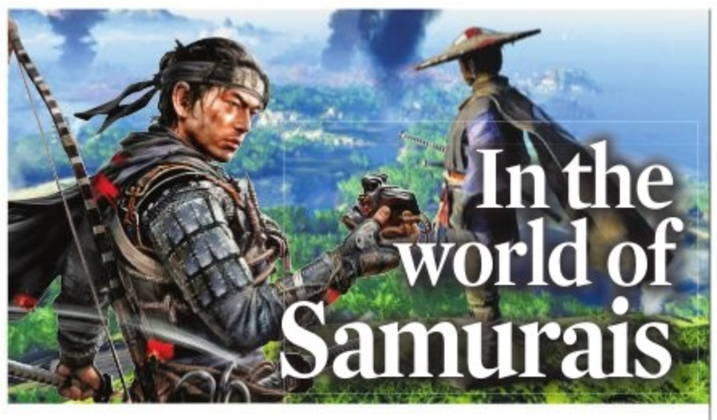
LINCOLN
Abraham Lincoln uses his powers as the president of the United States of America as he strives to abolish slavery and reunite his country during the Civil War.
Cast: Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field, Tommee Lee Jones, Joseph Gordon-Lewitt, James Spader
- Watch on: Sony LIV

THE POST
Publisher Katharine and her editor-in-chief Ben put their careers and freedom at risk to uncover a scandalous decades-long secret about the Vietnam War.
Cast: Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Sarah Paulson, Bob Odenkirk, Matthew Rhys
- Watch on: Sony LIV

BRIDGE OF SPIES
James B Donovan defends an alleged KGB spy, Rudolf Abel, in the US courts. He is eventually called upon to negotiate an exchange of Rudolf with a US pilot, Francis Powers, who was caught in the USSR.
Cast: Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Amy Ryan, Alan Alda
- Watch on: Sony LIV

SPOTLIGHT
Martin Baron joins the Boston Globe as an editor and pushes four journalists named Michael, Walter, Sacha and Matt to pursue a story about the child molestation charges against the local church.
Cast: mark Ruffalo, Micahel Keaton, Rachel McAdams, Liev Schreiber, Stanley Tucci
- Watch on: Sony LIV

SUBSCRIPTION
Zee5: ₹ 99 per month
Sony LIV: ₹ 299 per month
Aha: ₹199 for 3 months



In the world of Samurais

PLAY ON
Arjun Sukumaran

(Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)

This is always a crazy time of year for video games and 2020 is, if anything, substantially crazier than the usual. You've got a new console generation in addition to all the high-profile games earmarked for release round about now. That's why, today, we're ignoring all of that and talking about a game that came out in July — Ghost of Tsushima. (It'll make sense, I promise!)

Announced in 2017, Ghost of Tsushima immediately made a splash for two main reasons. First, it was from Sucker Punch, who've earned their reputation off the backs of the Sly Cooper and Infamous series. Secondly, even by the high standards of game trailers, Tsushima was jaw-droppingly gorgeous. It also had the hook of being set in an unexplored part of history — the Mongol invasion of the Japanese island of Tsushima in 1274. You play as Jin Sakai, a samurai waging a guerrilla war against the invaders. You'll recruit allies, terrorize Mongol encampments and struggle with the conflict between honour and necessity. Tsushima is a fascinating world and backdrop for this story; unfortunately, the story and Jin himself don't feel quite as compelling. (He's no Ezio, to name one example.)

As for how it plays, there's a clue in that last sentence — almost every aspect of Ghost of Tsushima feels something you've seen or played before. Whether you're thinking of Assassin's Creed, Far Cry, Horizon: Zero Dawn or Uncharted, you'll feel a sense of familiarity slipping over you as you explore the island of Tsushima. This makes the occasional exception to that — the standoff move, which really makes you feel like a legendary samurai, or the way it leans hard into Japanese mythology — stand out all the more. It is worth saying that, what this game does, it does well — it's worthy of being named alongside those others in terms of gameplay.

Where Ghost of Tsushima does break away from the pack a little bit is in the graphical department — my word, this game is beautiful. Open-world games, of course, are typically no slouches in this area (the world's got to be pretty if you want players to want to explore it), but Tsushima is regularly, almost casually stunning with every new vista that unfolds. There's also a 'Kurosawa mode' which turns the entire game into a black-and-white homage to some legendary samurai movies and the man who created them; a very nice touch.

We've known for some time that this year would be the swansong of the PlayStation 4, so there was more than a little bit of attention being paid to the PS exclusives scheduled for 2020 like The Last of Us Part II and Ghost of Tsushima. Somehow, the latter seemed to fade away as the year went on, and it's not too hard to see why — there's nothing unique or hugely innovative here, and games that aren't groundbreaking are easier to dismiss in this golden age of video games. That's why I felt that Ghost of Tsushima is worth talking about right now — just step back from all the new-console hype, all the new-release hype, and spend some time with a game that came out a little while ago, fell by the wayside a bit but — and this is really the key point — is very good and fun to play.

WHAT'S NEW?

Demon's Souls remake

So far, the surprise hit of the new generation appears to be a remake of a game that originally came out 11 years ago - and I couldn't be happier about it. I've always felt that Demon's Souls was From Software's best game, and I can't wait to return to Boletaria.

PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X

Well, that's it - we are officially in a new generation of consoles. This is certainly a momentous occasion, but it admittedly does feel a bit weird to be getting excited about this, what with everything else that's going on in the world. Still, here we are, Sony and Microsoft - do your best.

World of Warcraft: Shadowlands

In other blast-from-the-past news, the original MMO juggernaut is still chugging along with the release of a new expansion (its 8th!). Shadowlands will take players to the titular realm of the dead, while shaking up level caps amongst a host of other changes. It's worth pointing out that World of Warcraft, if it were a person, is currently old enough to drive.

PASSION IN FULL STEAM

This city-based Railways employee has been juggling the rigorous task of managing stations while pursuing his love for art

Pic: Meghana Shastry

Vijayendra Chouthai's sketch of a vintage steam loco (right) went viral after it was tweeted by the railway ministry

> Your mind has to be peaceful to give your best. Only when I get into that mindset, can I sketch. Between 10 pm and 12 midnight and 4.30 am to 6 am are my most preferred timings.
>
> Vijayendra Rao Chouthai, station manager at Mallasandra Railway Station

S LALITHA

Of the nearly 1,000 art pieces that Vijayendra Rao Chouthai, the station manager at Mallasandra Railway Station in Bengaluru Railway Division has churned out, it is the pencil sketch of a vintage steam loco that catapulted him to fame on Sunday. The official Twitter handle of the Ministry of Railways lauded his creative streak and showcased his piece with the tag, "The talent pool of Indian Railways is extensive and diverse!" The tweet has gone viral.

This recognition has come as Chouthai is all set to hang up his boots after 36 years of service in the South Western Railway Zone. This black and white sketch with smoke chugging out of the engine drawn using charcoal pencil is bound to make anyone nostalgic about rail travel and the rhythmic sound of good old engines. The caption Rao has scrawled on it enhances its appeal: Cherish your memories. leave your footprints.'

The station manager, who has had the habit of making his workplace interesting, had framed this work he had done on October 22 and hung it at his workspot. Chief Safety Officer C Ramanujam who came on an inspection thought it was quite attractive and took photos and spread the word around.

Oil paintings, water painting, glass painting, pencil sketches and thread work make up his vibrant oevre. Strangely for someone so close to the railways, he has done only four sketches on trains so far. "I inherited the talent of sketching and painting from my father. From the age of seven, I was interested in them and won the art prize every year at school," says the native of Bhadravathi in Shivamogga.

The family's modest financial circumstances prevented him for enrolling for a five-year art course at Davangere. "I ended up doing a B.Sc in Physics, Chemistry & Math, and got a job at LIC. A year later, I joined Railways as an Assistant Station Master at Bhadravathi," he says. Since then, he has been sketching at home whenever time permits. "Top railways officers then, including Mr S Gagarin, who was the Senior Divisional Safety Officer in Mysuru and the Divisional Railway Manager Mr Ramachandra were appreciative of my creativity," he says.

Commuting for five hours daily from Bengaluru to his work spot and handling a highly demanding job, makes pursuing his hobby particularly tough. "Your mind has to be peaceful to give your best. Only when I get into that mindset, can I sketch. Between 10 pm and 12 midnight and 4.30 am to 6 am are my most preferred timings," he adds.

His phone is on silent when he gets into the creative mode and his family respects the fact that he has to be left undisturbed. Paintings and a few greeting cards he has done in the 1980s have even reached homes in Australia and the US. "As I rose up the ranks in Railways, I no longer needed the extra money and have been donating it, as advised by my late father. An old age home and NGO Belaku get them," he says, adding, "My children have also inherited and are better artists than me. We will be jointly exhibiting our works at Chitrakala Parishath in June 2021."

Fitness is beyond weight loss, says Wanitha Ashok who has been named an ambassador by the government's Fit India Movement

Walking the talk

VIDYA IYENGAR

It's been a week of celebrations for fitness instructor Wanitha Ashok. Two days after the wedding of her daughter in the last week of November, Ashok (54), received an intimation that she has been named a 'Fit India Ambassador' by the Fit India Movement. A flagship programme launched by the Government of India in 2019, this is an attempt to emphasise on the importance of exercise in daily life.

Now, as part of the initiative, Ashok has been asked to come up with campaigns to reach out to a larger audience. Other names announced for the campaign include chess player Viswanathan Anand, actor Kajal Agarwal, and fitness gurus Mickey Mehta and Luke Cuhtinho.

"The idea is to inculcate the habit of daily exercise for at least 30 minutes," says Ashok, whose journey goes 18 years, when she first forayed into the fitness space, testing the waters with no idea of what lay ahead. "When I was looking to switch from the gym where I used to go for aerobics, one of the instructors suggested that I myself turn instructor," she recalls. With that single thought and a lot of research, Ashok started working out the modalities, including taking tests and getting certified professionally. " I remember asking my instructor whether I would really be able to pass the exam at my age," she says, adding, "In a way, I had no one to really guide me. I'm self-made that way. Even before I realised it, I had become a brand and there was a waitlist to join my classes."

Though the space has been burgeoning, especially in the last couple of years, Ashok says it doesn't frazzle her. "I have been an athlete, a homemaker, and an instructor. I understand what each phase requires, whether they are teenagers, young adults, young mothers, pre-menopause, menopause, etc," she says, adding that although there are dime-a-dozen instructors, not many are certified. "This leads to many long-lasting injuries. I have my own approach. It's important to upgrade continuously," she adds.

Much has changed in the pandemic, with classes going online, and people having understood the importance of staying fit in these times, she points out. "It's beyond weight loss, which I am trying and will continue highlighting as the Ambassador," she says.

> In a way, I had no one to really guide me. I'm self-made that way. Even before I realised it, I had become a brand and there was a waitlist to join my classes
>
> Wanitha Ashok, Fit India Ambassador

CITY READ

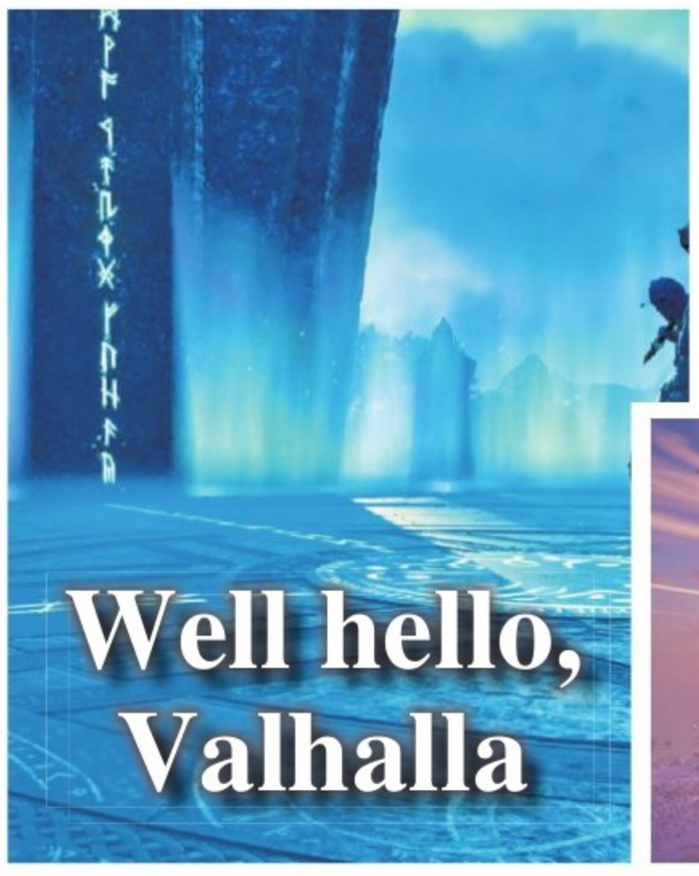
Three-day international virtual conference

Bangalore University and Indian Association for Science Fiction Studies are organising a 3-day international virtual conference from December 7-9. To engage researchers, academicians, and professionals in research, Bangalore University has taken up the broad theme of science fiction by including science, technology, arts, humanities, law, management etc. Nobel Laureate Prof. Didier Patrick Queloz, (Physics, 2019) will be delivering the keynote address on 'Exo- planets: When the reality is beyond science fiction.' Students, research scholars, academicians, professionals and science fiction writers from all over the world will be presenting more than 250 research papers. For more details, visit the BU website.

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Well hello, Valhalla



I was determined to dislike Assassin's Creed Valhalla even before its release. An RPG-fied version of a stealth game that we all love? No thank you. Ravens instead of Eagles? What is this, Game of Thrones? Unacceptable. Apart from these irredeemable shortcomings, Valhalla is actually quite ok (I say, after completing over 40 hours of gameplay).

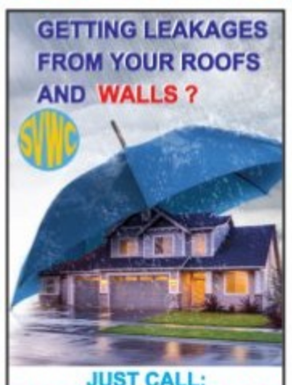
The Story: The game starts with the tragic incident in Eivor's childhood. It seals the adventurous and revenge-seeking nature of his/her future, as well as their hatred for wolves. The story takes us from wintery Norway, to green hamlets in an England in turmoil, and even Asgard (through Eivor's hallucinations). The link to the story outside the Animus is now stronger, with more frequent visits to the outside world and associates discussions. The chronology inside the Animus moving closer to civilisation as we know it, the Assassin's Guild is not established, and the Templar order gains more structure. This brings several throwback moments into the older games in the series, upping the nostalgia feature.

Exploration: To compensate for the lack of obvious side missions, the lands force us to explore them to uncover mysteries and collect wealth to level up our settlement. The mysteries hold delightful small story sequences within them, giving us an insight into the game's universe and lives of the NPCs. It is easy to get diverted by the glowing indicators on the map, and ride towards them, abandoning our core objectives. I personally loved the boardgame Orlog introduced in Valhalla.

Gameplay: The gameplay of Valhalla is as convoluted as we've ever seen in the series. The skill tree that we were familiar with in Odyssey and Origins had evolved into something of a skill forest. Each tree is a separate constellation, unlocking minor skill-ups and one major power. Considering it's complexity, the game allows us to modify ours skills at will at any point. Instead of levels, we have powers — and the climb is not as steep as the previous games. It makes the reward system more gratifying. The combat starts out quite tame, but as we move up in powers, the finishers and unique abilities come into play, and grow more nuanced based on enemy archetype. The game has made face-to-face engagement more entertaining, and we might surprise ourselves by choosing to upgrade melee abilities over stealth.

While these are amazing updates, Valhalla does not redress the complaints that everyone had of the last few games — the grind. A consequence of the longevity of the gameplay is that the quests get repetitive over time. We will find ourselves skilling cutscenes often. But the game overall is still enjoyable, and buying it would not involve the risk of a leap of faith. Skal!

SMART ADS



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YASHA SHIVAKUMAR BAGS A BIGGIE, TO STAR IN SHIVARAJKUMAR'S SHIVAPPA

Yasha Shivakumar

Dhananjay and Shivarajkumar

The newcomer, who is making her debut in Hariprasad's Jayanna's *Padavi Poorva*, will be paired opposite Dhananjay in her next film; directed by Vijay Milton, it also features Anjali and Pruthvi Ambaar

A SHARADHAA

YASHA Shivakumar, who is stepping into tinsel town with Hariprasad Jayanna's under-production *Padavi Poorva,* has bagged her next, and it is a big project. The newcomer in Sandalwood will be a part of Shivarajkumar's upcoming film, *Shivappa*, directed by Vijay Milton. The action commercial drama features Anjali as the female lead, and now Yasha Shivakumar has also been brought on board as one of the heroines. She will be paired opposite Dhananjay in the film. Vijay Milton, who began shooting for the film on Nov. 23, has completed the first schedule. Updating the audience on the film's status, the director posted on his Twitter handle, "donewith 1st schedule of #shivappa to all@NimmaShivannafans out there,i became one of u?? 8days of schedule completed 23 scenes. tnx to the whole team" (sic). The next schedule is expected to start from Dec. 8, when Yasha Shivakumar will be joining the sets.

Shivappa, produced by Krishna Sarthak, will be cinematographer-turned-director Vijay Milton's first Kannada project. He has also written the story and will be handling the cinematography as well. They have brought back the *Tagaru* duo of the Century Star and Daali Dhananjay again. The film also stars Pruthvi Ambaar of *Dia* fame in a major role. It has Anjali returning to Kannada cinema after five years. The film also includes Umashree and Shashikumar as part of the cast. Anoop Seelin is composing the music for the film.

'I have to do justice to title of *Superstar*'

... says Niranjan Sudhindra, who is happy with the support he is getting for his debut with Ramesh Venkatesh Babu's directorial

CE FEATURES

Niranjan Sudhindra, the young hero in the making, has been in the news for various reasons, the latest being the title song from the film, *Superstar,* which was unveiled on Dec. 4. The track begins with Yash's introduction voice for lyrics written by director Chethan Kumar, and music by Raghavendra. It has been designed by the film's director Ramesh Venkatesh Babu (RVB). It was released on Anand Audio, and has been fetching positive views for the newcomer.

"I am blessed to have everything best coming to this debut launch as a hero, starting from my uncle Upendra, and the wishes pouring in from the industry people as well, " says Niranjan, who will be sporting an eight-pack in the upcoming schedule, which starts on Monday. "The entire schedule, which will go on till Dec. 27, will have various action block episodes. To begin with, we will start with the stunt sequences choreographed by Vijay master, and follow it with two fights and talkies portions," he adds.

To build a career in acting, according to Niranjan, requires a beautiful script and a good team, and there is no reason to compromise. "Whenever the director has asked me for more, I have met his expectations, and everything done until now has shaped up well. The director, the team, and I have carefully worked on the looks, the script, and the photoshoot, and right now, another major step is donning eight-pack abs. The process of this entire movie is for me to bring out the best version of myself, and I have to keep growing. Acting is another ball game, and it has to be handled with maturity. It can only get better with dedication and performance," he says, adding that with the title of 'Superstar', he has a big responsibility on his back. "*Superstar* is a title I got from my uncle (Upendra), who has earned it for his accomplishments. I have to do justice to it," he says.

While his current focus is only on *Superstar,* his works have been noticed by filmmakers of Sandalwood and other film industries as well, and Niranjan reveals that he has been approached by a couple of Bollywood directors and producers, as well as those from Kannada and Telugu cinema. "There have been discussions with various directors here and in other languages. However, everything will be decided once I am done with Superstar," he says.

I am blessed to have everything best coming to this debut launch as a hero, starting from my uncle Upendra, and the wishes pouring in from the industry people as well

Niranjan Sudhindra, actor

Saif Ali Khan apologises for statements on the portrayal of Ravan in *Adipurush*

CE FEATURES

RECENTLY Saif Ali Khan was caught in the middle of a controversy after he faced overwhelming outrage about his statements on portraying a "humane Ravan" in his upcoming film, *Adipurush.* In an attempt at damage control, Saif Ali Khan clarified his statement and said, "I've been made aware that one of my statements during an interview, has caused controversy and hurt people's sentiments. This was never my intention or meant that way. I would like to sincerely apologise to everybody and withdraw my statement."

In a recent interview, the actor said that his upcoming film was going to show the "humane" side of Ravan. This statement met with a lot of criticism, and netizens expressed their discontent with strongly-worded statements.

Adipurush stars Prabhas in the lead role, and has Kriti Sanon starring opposite him. This film will mark Saif Ali Khan's second successive project with director Om Raut after their previous blockbuster collaboration, *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior,* co-starring Ajay Devgn.

Akshay joins Sara Ali Khan on the sets of *Atrangi Re*

CE FEATURES

AKSHAY Kumar has started shooting for the film *Atrangi Re,* with Sara Ali Khan, and he shared the update with an unseen picture from the set.

"The joy brought by those three magic words is unmatched: Lights, Camera, Action ï¿½ Begun shooting for #AtrangiRe by @aanandlraiï¿½ Need all your love and best wishes ï¿½ An @arrahman musical. Written by: #HimanshuSharma," he tweeted.

In the picture, Akshay and Sara are all smiles for the camera. They are looking at each as they walk together with Akshay holding Sara. Sara is seen in a traditional attire, while Akshay looks dapper in his attire.

Sara also shared the same picture on Instagram, writing: "*AtrangiRe* becomes more Rangeen! @akshaykumar so privileged, excited and thankful to be working with you!"

Vikas Verma: Had to bulk up to play the villain in *Coolie No. 1*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Vikas Verma will be seen as the antagonist in the Varun Dhawan-Sara Ali Khan starrer *Coolie No. 1,* directed by David Dhawan.

Vikas, who has worked with the Dhawans earlier in *Judwaa 2*, said: "I was talking to David sir about the role in his next film. However it was much later that I got to know the title of the film," Vikas said referring to *Coolie No. 1.*

"David sir said 'you are playing my villain, you need to get bigger'. I had 20 days to bulk up," he shared.

He also has "big fight sequences" in the upcoming film.

"Varun saw me and he said 'you look super big, it will be fun to fight you on screen'. We used to workout together in Bangkok. In fact in *Coolie No. 1*, we have big fight sequences from the beginning till the end, big chase scenes too. Although Varun and I had an intense fight sequence in *Judwaa 2*, much has changed in this film. It is bigger and better. There is a railway station fight scene on a platform and more. In the end, Varun was like 'we should do one comedy film together'," said Vikas.

Coolie No. 1, which is a remake of the 1995 movie with the same name, will release digitally on December 25.

ADIL HUSSAIN JOINS THE SETS OF FOOTPRINTS ON WATER IN LONDON

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Adil Hussain has started shooting for his new film, *FootPrints On Water*, in the city.

The film, which will later release in Malayalam and English languages, marks the directorial debut of British-Indian filmmaker Nathalia Syam.

"I always look forward to work in directors' debut films. They are passionate and every minute spent in the process of filmmaking is for the first time. It's a historic event for the debutant. In the process, it becomes special for me," said Adil.

"Nathalia Syam has chosen *FootPrints On Water,* a story written by her sister Neetha Syam. Both sisters have seen a lot of what they have written and will be captured on camera," he added.

Sharing details of Adil's character in the movie, producer Mohaan Nadaar said: "It's really exciting that our amazing talent Adil is finally here with us. We couldn't think of anyone better than him to portray such a multidimensional character. I am excited to see him bring Raghu to life - the character of an illegal immigrant living in the UK. This character represents the untold stories of many living amongst us."

Oscar Isaac to play Solid Snake in *Metal Gear Solid*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Oscar Isaac has been roped in to play Solid Snake in Jordan Vogt-Roberts' action movie *Metal Gear Solid.*

The film, which is currently in development at Sony Pictures, is based on the video game franchise created by Hideo Kojima and published by Konami. The film has a script written by Derek Connolly.

Since the release of the first *Metal Gear* game by MSX home computers in 1987, the game has had a huge fan following of its own. *Metal Gear Solid* is the third game in the series and follows Solid Snake, a soldier who infiltrates a nuclear weapons facility to neutralize the terrorist threat from Foxhound, a renegade special forces unit.